



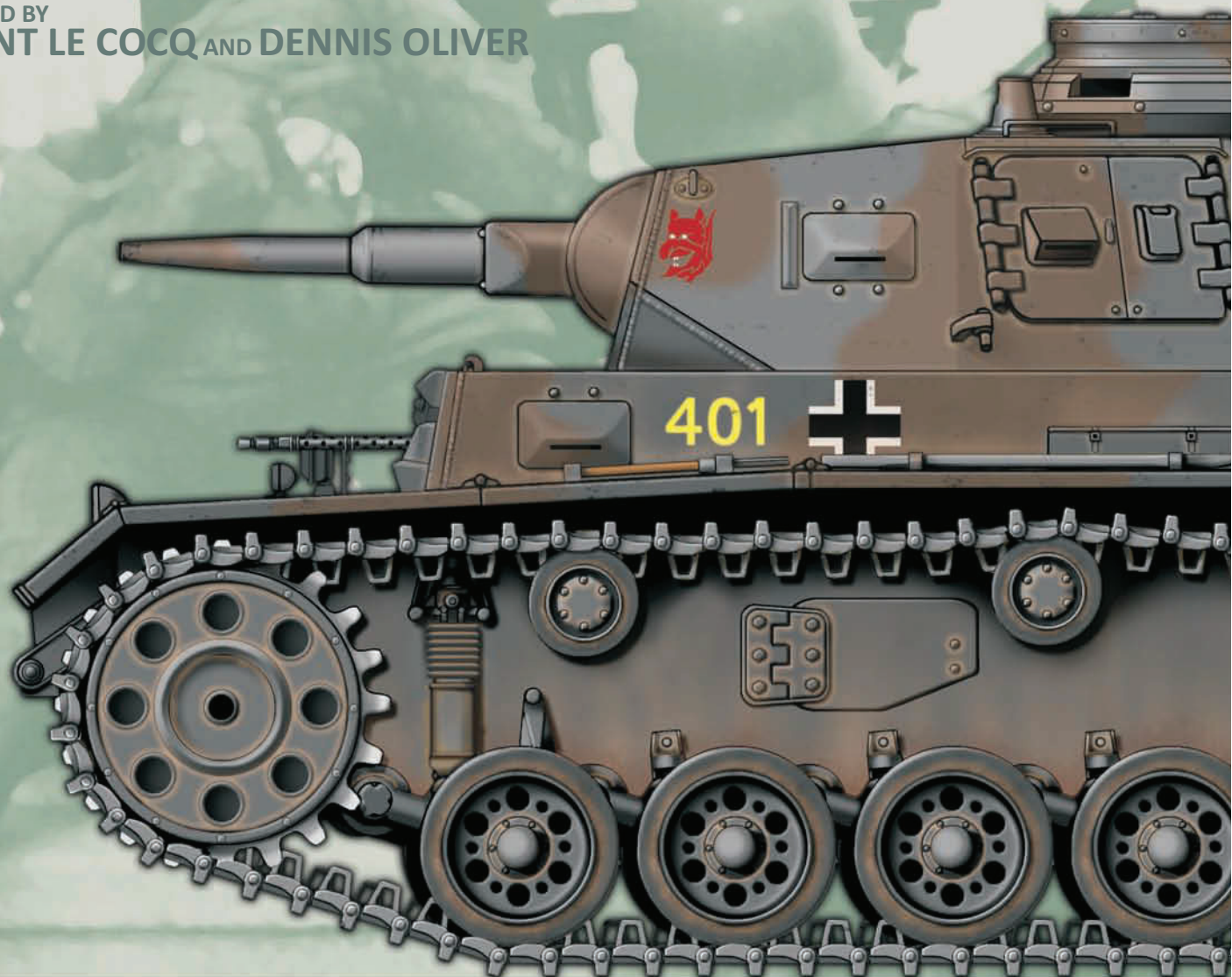
FIREFLY COLLECTION No.5

CASE YELLOW

GERMAN ARMOUR
IN THE INVASION OF FRANCE, 1940

WRITTEN BY
DENNIS OLIVER

ILLUSTRATED BY
LAURENT LE COCQ AND DENNIS OLIVER



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PUBLISHING

SUPERBLY DETAILED COLOUR PROFILES, BLACK AND WHITE ARCHIVE PHOTOGRAPHS,
COMPREHENSIVE ORGANISATIONAL AND EQUIPMENT CHARTS, UNIT HISTORY AND MAPS

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We also wish to thank Mr Freddie Leung, President and CEO of Dragon Models Ltd, for his kind permission to reproduce the photograph of their scale model Panzer III ausf E which appears on the back cover. Further models of the vehicles which are depicted in this book can be found at www.dragon-models.com. In addition to the websites mentioned above, the following printed works were also consulted: **France 1940. Blitzkrieg In The West.** Sheppard, A. **France. Summer 1940.** Williams, J. **Von Lemberg Bis Bordeaux.** Leixner, L. **The Blitzkrieg Myth.** Mosier, J. **Early Panzer Victories.** De Sisto, F. **Guderian Perce A Sedan.** Buffetaut, Y. **Blitzkrieg A L'Ouest.** Buffetaut, Y. **Blitzkrieg.** Zaloga, S. **Panzertruppen 1933-42.** Jentz, T. L. (Editor). **Panzerwaffe. Volume 2.** Healy, M. **Die Truppenkennzeichen der Verbände und Einheiten der deutschen Wehrmacht und Waffen-SS und ihre Einsätze im Zweiten Weltkrieg 1939-1945.** Schmitz, P and Theis K-J. **Blitzkrieg. 1936-40.** Ledwoch, J. **Fall Gelb.** Solarz, J. **Die Uniformen Der Panzertruppe.** Horn, W. **Auszeichnungen Des 3.Reiches.** Hartnung, L. **German Sturmartillerie At War.** De Sisto, F. **Sturmgeschütze III and it's Variants.** Spielberger, W. **Les Semi-Chenilles Mittlererkraftwagen Sdkfz 251.** Charpentier, L. **Que Valait Le 88 En Antichar. Batailles & Blindes No 19.** Mavournel, J-P. **Bufla! 8,8cm Flak 18 (sfl) auf Zugkraftwagen 12t.** Batailles & Blindes No 4. Mavournel, J-P. **Schwerer Panzerspahwagen.** Jentz, T. **Panzer IV and its Variants.** Spielberger, W. **J. Panzerjäger und Sturmgeschütze.** Schiebert, H. **Achtung Panzer No. 2.** **Panzerkampfwagen III.** Ichimura, H (editor). **Achtung Panzer No. 5.** **Sturmgeschütz III, Stug. IV & SIG.33.** Bitoh, M and Kitamura, H. **Sturmartillerie.** Spielberger, W.J and Feist, U. **Stug III Assault Gun 1940-42.** Doyle, H and Jentz, T. **Sdkfz 251.** Ledwoch, J. **Sturmgeschütz III.** Culver, B. **1.Panzer-Division.** Riebenstahl, H. **Die 2.Panzer-Division.** Steinzer, F. **4 Panzer Division 1939-1943. Vol 1.** Kinski, A.

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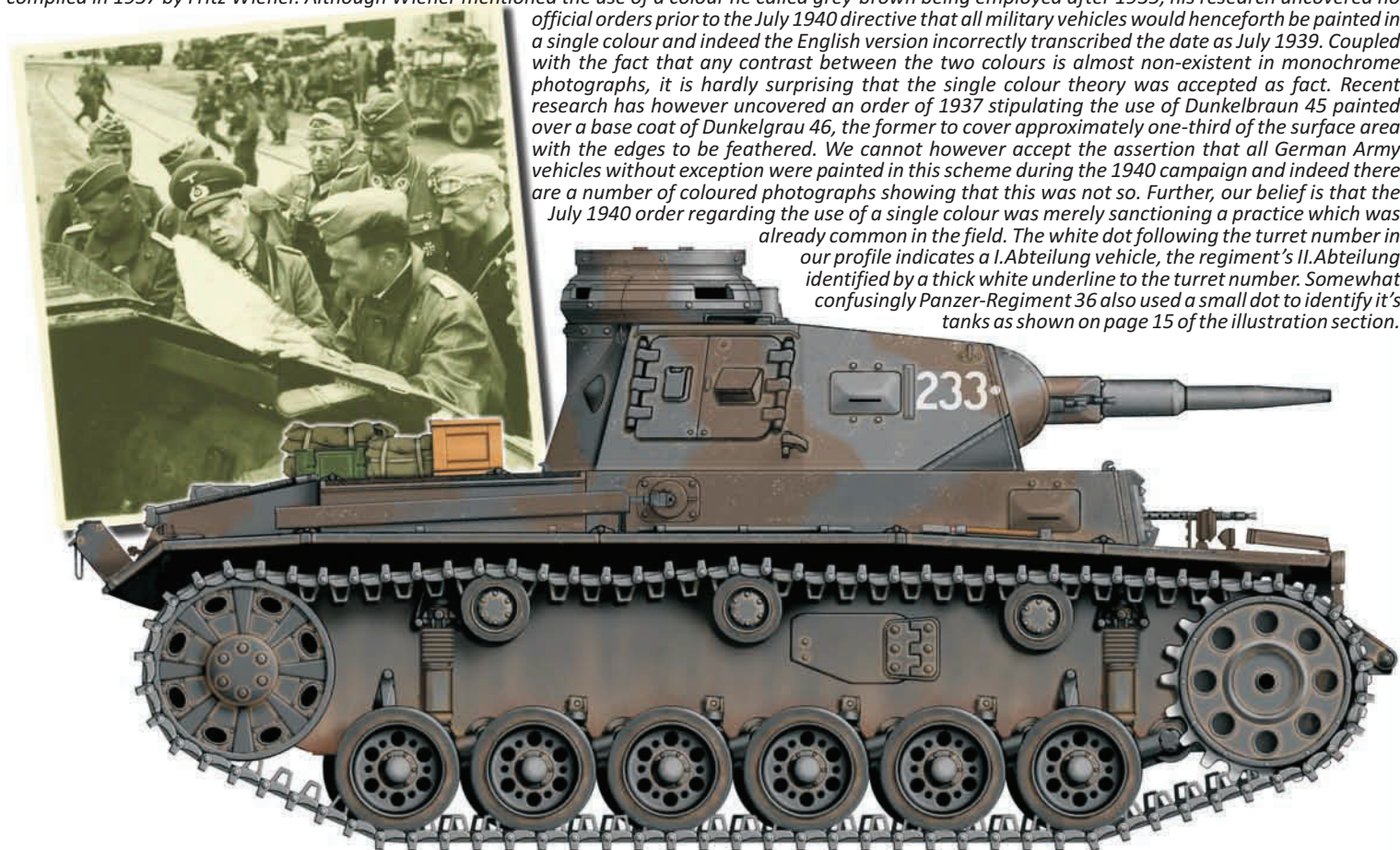
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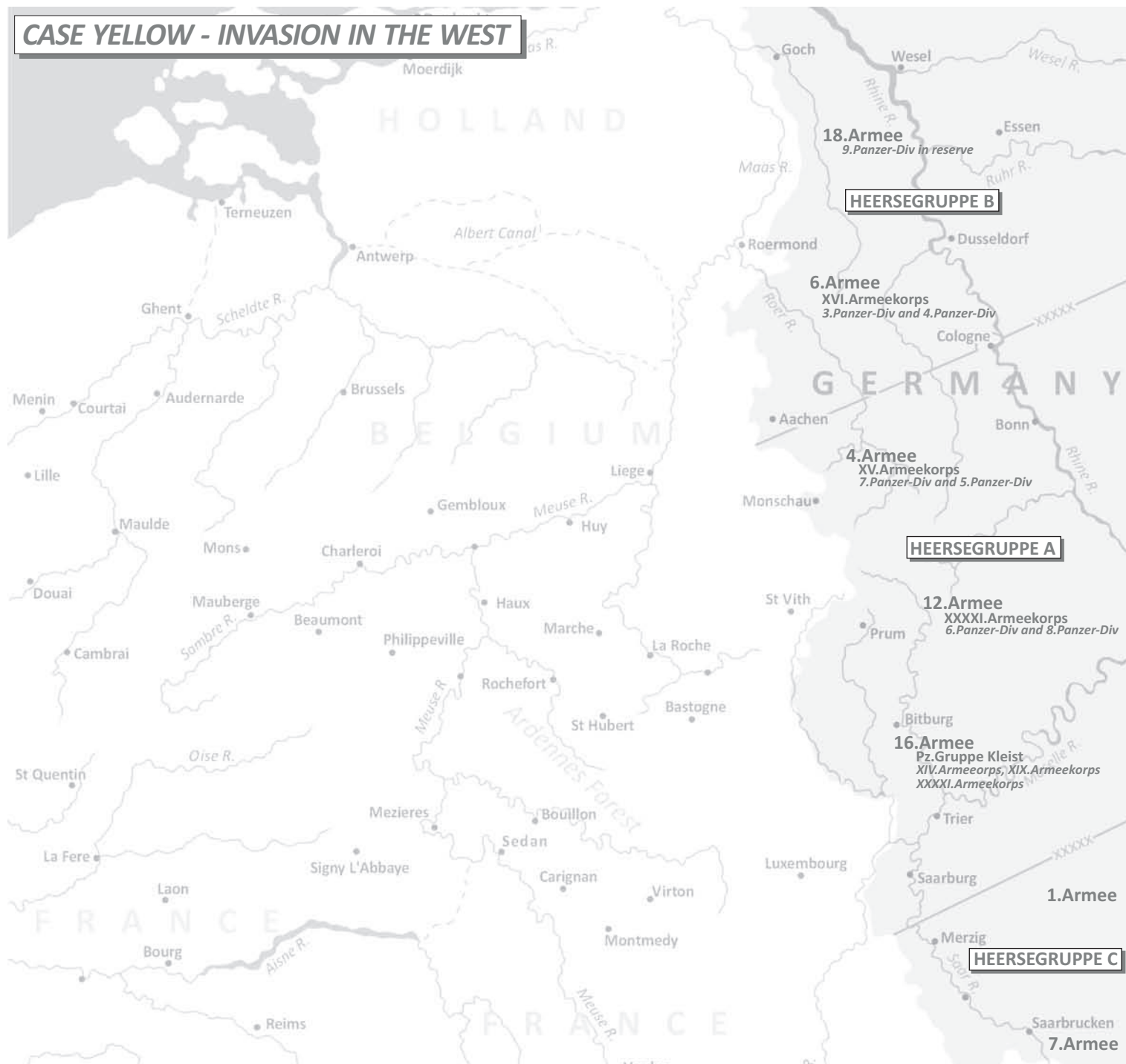
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Below, left: The commander of 7.Panzer-Division during the 1940 campaign - and possibly the most famous German soldier of the Second World War - Generalmajor Erwin Rommel confers with officers of his division during the invasion of France. Below: A Pzkw III ausf E of 2.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 2, 1.Panzer-Division. Until quite recently it was assumed that all German military vehicles during the early war period were painted in an overall shade of very dark grey. It is almost certain that this supposition was based on information contained in an English translation of *Der Anstrich des Heeresgerätes 1939-1945* compiled in 1957 by Fritz Wiener. Although Wiener mentioned the use of a colour he called grey-brown being employed after 1935, his research uncovered no

official orders prior to the July 1940 directive that all military vehicles would henceforth be painted in a single colour and indeed the English version incorrectly transcribed the date as July 1939. Coupled with the fact that any contrast between the two colours is almost non-existent in monochrome photographs, it is hardly surprising that the single colour theory was accepted as fact. Recent research has however uncovered an order of 1937 stipulating the use of Dunkelbraun 45 painted over a base coat of Dunkelgrau 46, the former to cover approximately one-third of the surface area with the edges to be feathered. We cannot however accept the assertion that all German Army vehicles without exception were painted in this scheme during the 1940 campaign and indeed there are a number of coloured photographs showing that this was not so. Further, our belief is that the July 1940 order regarding the use of a single colour was merely sanctioning a practice which was already common in the field. The white dot following the turret number in our profile indicates a I.Abteilung vehicle, the regiment's II.Abteilung identified by a thick white underline to the turret number. Somewhat confusingly Panzer-Regiment 36 also used a small dot to identify it's tanks as shown on page 15 of the illustration section.



CASE YELLOW - INVASION IN THE WEST



The map above shows the initial German dispositions immediately prior to the attack on 10 May 1940. The main weight of armour, as can be seen here, was concentrated in General von Rundstedt's Heeresgruppe A opposite Luxembourg and the French-Belgian border. The army sized battle group commanded by General von Kliest, under the command of 16.Armee, contained the 1st, 2nd and 10th Panzer Divisions, with the fully motorised Infanterie-Regiment Grossdeutschland temporarily attached in XIX.Armeekorps, commanded by General Guderian and 6th and 8th Panzer Divisions as part of General Reinhardt's XXXXI.Armeekorps. In addition, Heeresgruppe A could call upon 7th and 5th Panzer divisions with XV Armeekorps.

Planning for an invasion in the west began almost as soon as Britain and France declared war on Germany in September 1939 with the chief of the German General Staff, General Franz Halder, presenting Hitler with his plan in October. Classified as Aufmarschanweisung Nr.1, it called for a thrust through Belgium in a largely infantry operation reminiscent of the Schlieffen Plan of 1914 and the similarity alone may have been enough for Hitler to demand that Halder's plan be completely revised. Further, although the terrain through central Belgium was ideal for tanks, the general staff had almost completely ignored Germany's armoured force which had not only proven itself in Poland but was one of Hitler's favourite propaganda weapons. Over the next six months the original plan underwent several changes being almost completely re-written by General Eric von Manstein, chief of staff of Heeresgruppe A, using a proposal originally submitted by General Heinz Guderian - which Manstein had initially rejected. The final version was approved by Hitler and code named Aufmarschanweisung Nr.4 Fall Gelb, or Case Yellow. Regarding Halder's plan as too obvious, Manstein shifted the main attack to the Ardennes which was almost universally regarded as unsuitable for armoured operations. In Belgium and Holland, Heeresgruppe B - made up of largely infantry units - would pin the Allies, allowing the German mobile units of Heeresgruppe A to attack through the Ardennes, force a crossing of the River Meuse and strike deep into the enemy's rear area. This plan was not without risk as large, dangerous gaps were left on both the northern and southern flanks of the Schwerpunkt - literally spear point - or main axis of attack. Still worse, if the Anglo-French army failed to take the bait offered by the advance of Heeresgruppe B and instead confronted Heeresgruppe A - or even maintained their positions - disaster was almost sure to follow and many senior officers counselled a return to the less imaginative but safer course offered by Halder's original plan. Hitler however was prepared to gamble that the Panzers would penetrate deep into the enemy's territory, disrupting supply and communications and sowing the same kind of panic and confusion that had defeated Poland the previous year. The invasion began in the early hours of May 10, 1940 when parachute and glider infantry landed in Holland and Belgium. Although of limited tactical value - the landings in Holland coming dangerously close to failure more than once - they helped to convince the Allies that the main attack would come in the north. Meanwhile the infantry divisions of Heeresgruppe B advanced into Holland and Belgium and just as Manstein had predicted, the Allies moved to meet the immediate threat. In fact the British and French commands behaved almost as though they were following the German plan to the letter and in their haste to protect Brussels had left the exits from the Ardennes around Sedan virtually undefended believing, as the Germans had hoped, that an attack here was highly unlikely. Late in the day on May 12 lead elements of three Panzer divisions reached the Meuse near Sedan - a full three days ahead of the Allies most pessimistic predictions. Within 24 hours, three German corps were across the river - the single most important natural barrier between them and the English Channel. In central Belgium, anticipating a replay of the 1914-18 War, the Allies were powerless to mount any kind of counter thrust and cut off from their supplies, began the retreat to the Channel ports.



Above: A Pzkw III ausf E photographed in a French town in the early stages of the campaign. Just visible on the turret side, below the steel helmet, and on the hull front is the white, diagonal bar marking used by some tanks of 10. Panzer-Division. On the nearest fender can be seen the large letter K which identifies Panzergruppe Kleist and dates this photograph to before 5 June 1940 when the division became part of Panzergruppe Guderian.



Inset: A Pzkw IV ausf D from 4. Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 1 of 1. Panzer-Division photographed in late June.



A 4.7cm Pak(t) auf Panzerkampfwagen I ausf B - more commonly referred to as a Panzerjäger I - photographed in company with tanks of 7. Panzer-Division. Based on the Pzkw I chassis and mounting a captured Czech anti-tank gun, these vehicles were organised into four Panzerjäger battalions of three companies each and ninety-nine conversions were available in May 1940. Only one battalion however, Panzerjäger-Abteilung 521 attached to Panzergruppe Kleist, served from the beginning of the campaign, the others being fed into the fighting as they completed their training. Although seemingly fragile they provided good service and proved capable of destroying the British Matilda II and the French Char I bis heavy tanks. A number of these vehicles soldiered on in Russia until 1943.

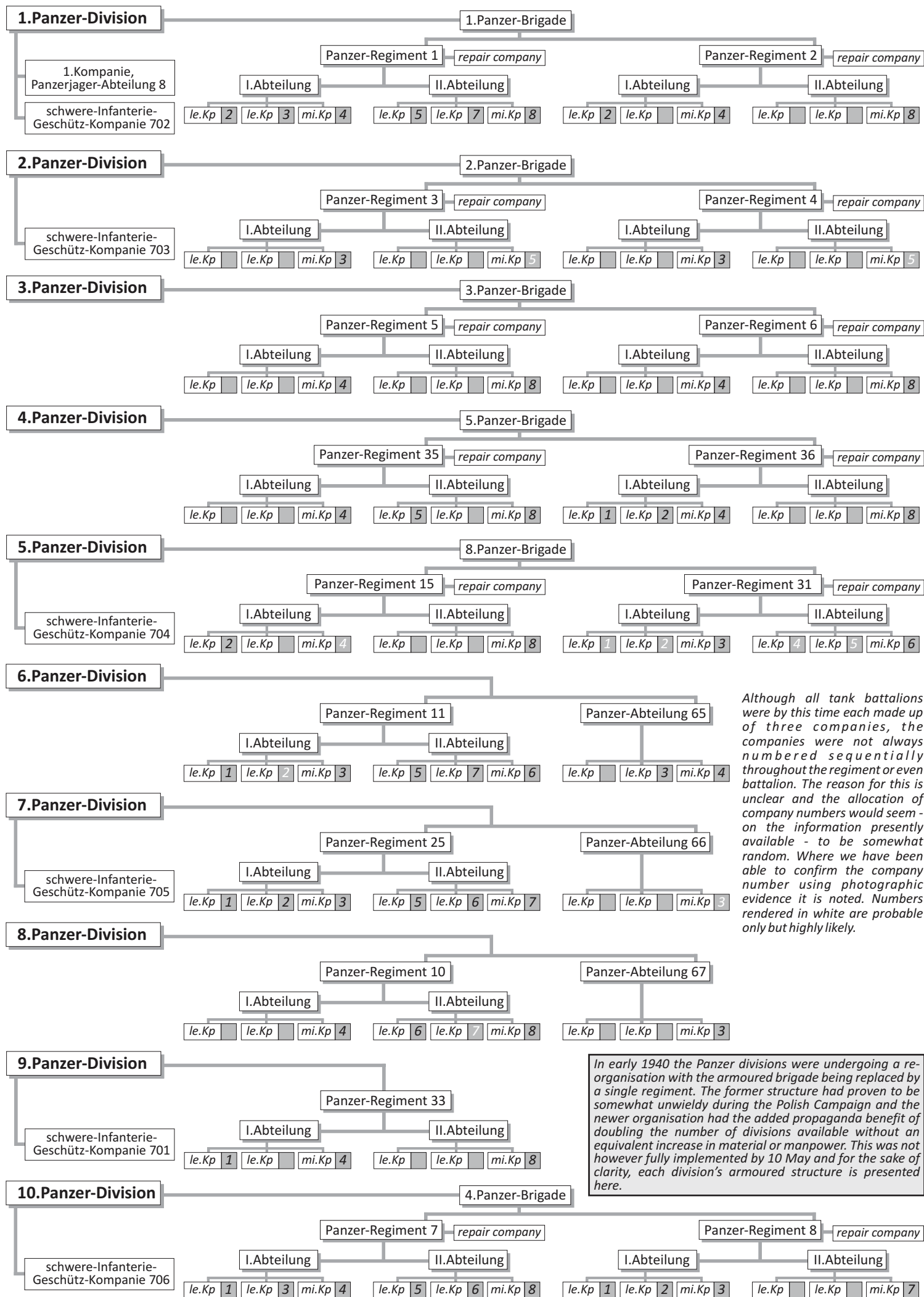
A captured French Peugeot 42 open-topped sedan seen here with men of 1.Gebirgs-Division. Although this vehicle has received a Wehrmacht registration number and plate there are no other markings visible and it is interesting to speculate as to whether this car has been repainted by its new owners or has retained a coat of French vert armée - a dark olive green. This division was one of the premier formations of the German Army and in the 1940 campaign distinguished itself at the crossings of the Maas and Loire rivers.



An Sdkfz 10 one ton half-track and its 3.7cm Pak anti-tank gun being ferried across a river. Although nearing obsolescence when the war began and incapable of penetrating the heavier French and British tanks, these guns were still effective against lightly armoured vehicles, which in fact made up the bulk of the Allied force. One typical unit, 1.Panzer-Division, had approximately thirty of these guns on hand in May 1940 with twelve of those equipping the division's Panzerjäger-Abteilung (mot) 37.



THE PANZER DIVISIONS, 1940





TANK STRENGTHS - MAY 1940

			Pzkw I	Pzkw II	Pzkw III	Pzkw IV	Pz38(t)	Pz35(t)	PzBef	PzBef38(t)	PzBef35(t)
1.Panzer-Division	Panzer-Brigade.1	Panzer-Regiment 1	26	49	28	20			4		
		Panzer-Regiment 2	26	49	30	20			4		
2.Panzer-Division	Panzer-Brigade.2	Panzer-Regiment 3	22	55	29	16			8		
		Panzer-Regiment 4	23	60	29	16			8		
3.Panzer-Division	Panzer-Brigade.3	Panzer-Regiment 5	117	129	42	26			27		
		Panzer-Regiment 6									
4.Panzer-Division	Panzer-Brigade.5	Panzer-Regiment 35	60	50	20	12			5		
		Panzer-Regiment 36	66	55	20	12			5		
5.Panzer-Division	Panzer-Brigade.8	Panzer-Regiment 15	51	61	24	16			15		
		Panzer-Regiment 31	46	59	28	16			11		
6.Panzer-Division		Panzer-Regiment 11		60		31		118			14
		Panzer-Abteilung 65									
7.Panzer-Division		Panzer-Regiment 25	34	68		24	91			8	
		Panzer-Abteilung 66									
8.Panzer-Division		Panzer-Regiment 10		58		23	116			15	
		Panzer-Abteilung 67									
9.Panzer-Division		Panzer-Regiment 33	30	54	41	16			12		
10.Panzer-Division	Panzer-Brigade.4	Panzer-Regiment 7	22	58	29	16			9		
		Panzer-Regiment 8	22	55	29	16			9		
Total tanks available 10 May 1940			545	920	349	280	207	118	117	23	14
Total losses for May 1940			142	194	110	77	43	45	38		

Although at least one authoritative source omits the Panzer battalions attached to 6th, 7th and 8th Panzer Divisions from the order of battle for May 1940 they are all mentioned in the accounts of officers of those divisions who took part in the campaign. Indeed, the first company of Panzer-Abteilung 65 - commanded by Franz Bäke - led the division into Belgium in the early hours of 10 May. Although exact numbers of vehicles are not available it is known that during the Polish campaign of the previous September, Panzer-Abteilung 65 had been equipped with Pzkw II, Pzkw IV and Pzkw 35(t) tanks, Panzer-Abteilung 66 had Pzkw I and Pzkw II tanks only while Panzer-Abteilung 67 had a number of Pzkw II, Pzkw IV and Pzkw 38(t) vehicles on hand. Given the figures shown above it is highly likely that Panzer-Abteilung 66 had received at least a few Pzkw 38(t) tanks by May 1940. Unfortunately individual totals for Panzer-Regiment 5 and Panzer-Regiment 6 of 3. Panzer-Division are not available. Not included here are the tanks of the Panzer-Lehr-Abteilung which was attached to XIX. Armeeekorps and was at various times under the command of the divisions of that corps. The battalion was not, as some sources state, attached to 3. Panzer-Division as it had been during the fighting in Poland.



Above: A Pzkw IV ausf C from 8.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 2 of 1.Panzer-Division photographed between Sedan and Reims. The practice of underlining the turret number was an identifying feature of this regiment's II.Abteilung and the use of a single number would suggest a company headquarters. At left: A Pzkw IV ausf C of 8.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 2, 1.Panzer-Division. In the original print of this photograph the division's Oak Leaf unit insignia is visible below the number. The small dot to the right of the turret number identifies the regiment's I.Abteilung. Below: An Sdkfz 221 armoured car waits behind two Sdkfz 222 vehicles and a Pzkw 38(t), all from 7.Panzer-Division.



A Pzkw IV ausf C of 7. Panzer-Division. Note that the turret number, 322, is also displayed on a metal plate attached to the hull rear, probably in white on a black background. Large red, outlined white numbers were a distinguishing feature of this division and although the large number painted onto the commander's cupola appears to have a decidedly light centre this is almost certainly due to the properties of mid-twentieth century film stock and the angle of the light and it is unlikely that the battalions of Panzer-Regiment 25 or Panzer-Abteilung 66 employed a system of different colours as has been suggested. The position of the Balkenkreuz and the tank's number may identify this as Panzer-Regiment 25 as the markings of Panzer-Abteilung 66 were reversed as can be seen on page 24. The men in the foreground are from the SS-Totenkopf-Division.



This Pzkw I ausf A provides a rare photographic example of the two-colour camouflage scheme applied to most German Army vehicles from its introduction in 1937 until July 1940 when the practice was officially discontinued. Although difficult to discern, the slightly lighter patches of Dunkelbraun camouflage can be detected on either side of the Balkenkreuz on the hull front and on the hull side just behind the vision port and under the gun mantlet. Close inspection of the Balkenkreuz markings show that the centre of each has been somewhat roughly painted out.



At right: Three Sturmgeschütz III ausf A assault guns halted by a roadside in France. Although this photograph is somewhat unclear, in the original print it is possible to detect what appear to be items of Waffen-SS insignia worn by members of the crew of the lead vehicle. Inset: A Sturmgeschütz III ausf A being cleaned courtesy of a French water hydrant. The Unteroffizier at the centre of the photograph is wearing the field-grey version of the Panzer uniform with the distinctive NCO Tresse attached to the collar and what appears to be a black Totenkopf collar tab. Below: Although no unit markings are visible on this Sturmgeschütz III ausf A, other than the Balkenkreuz national insignia on the hull side, a tactical sign is visible on the damaged, near fender. Note the French helmets carried on the headlights as souvenirs, a common practice during the 1940 campaign.



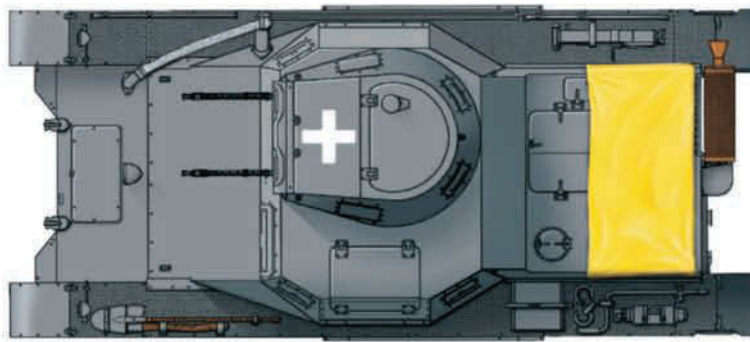


Men of 1.Gebirgs-Division examine a disabled Pzkw IV ausf C of 4.Kompanie, Panzer-Abteilung 65, attached to 6.Panzer-Division, photographed outside the Hôtel de Ville in Montcornet, about 45 kilometres north of Reims, where it was disabled on 16 or 17 May. These images provide very good detail views of several features including the main gun with the antenna deflector fitted to the barrel. Also visible are the turret front vision ports in the open position and the vision port and pistol port on the hull front which replaced the ball mount for the hull machine gun that was used on the ausf B and later re-introduced, in a revised form, on the ausf D and E models. A further photograph from this series shows that the turret number was 421.

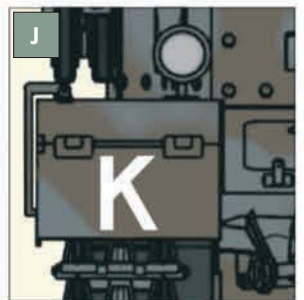
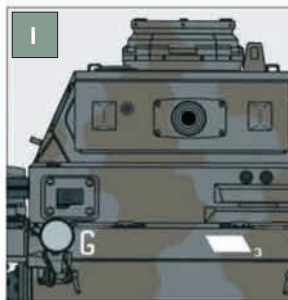
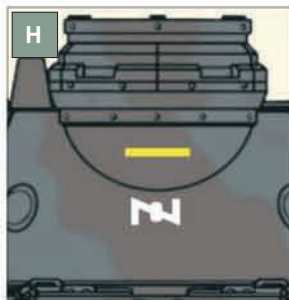
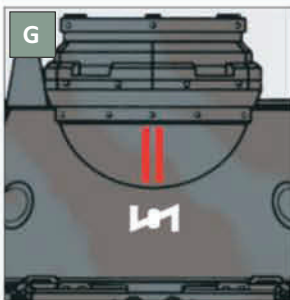
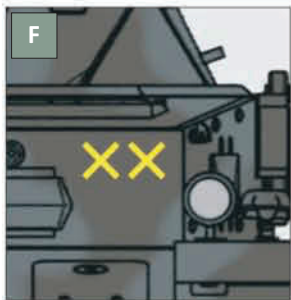
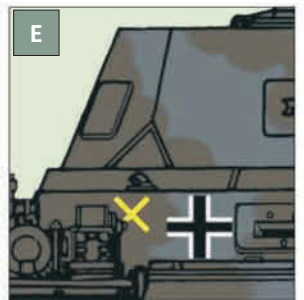
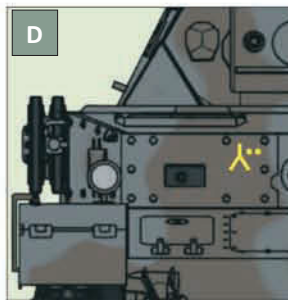
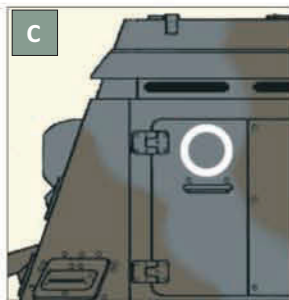
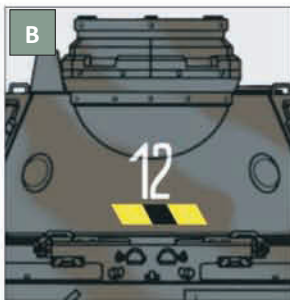
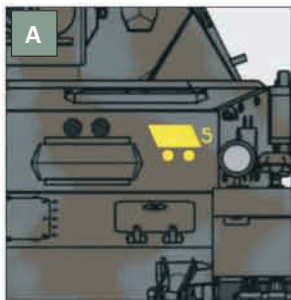
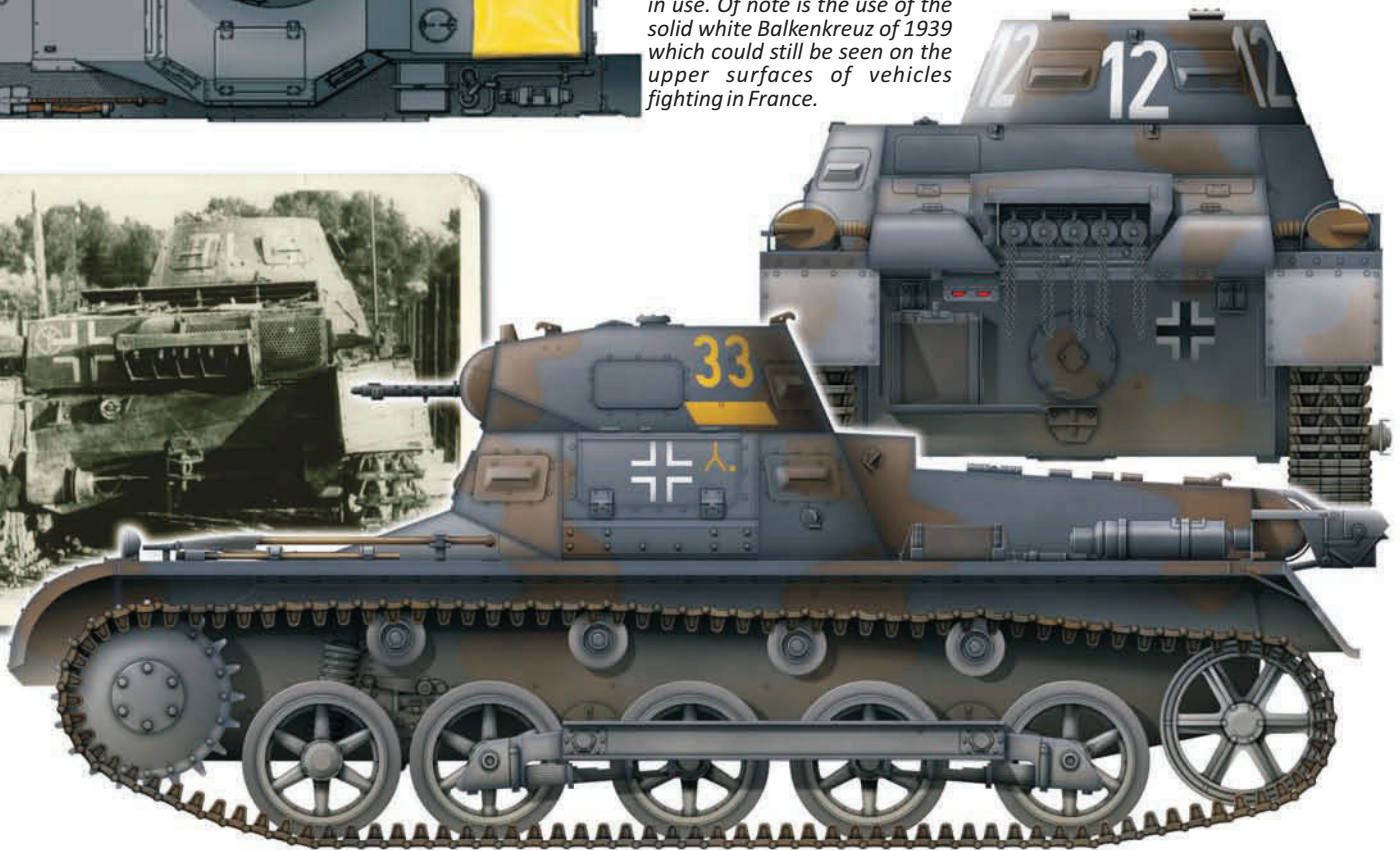
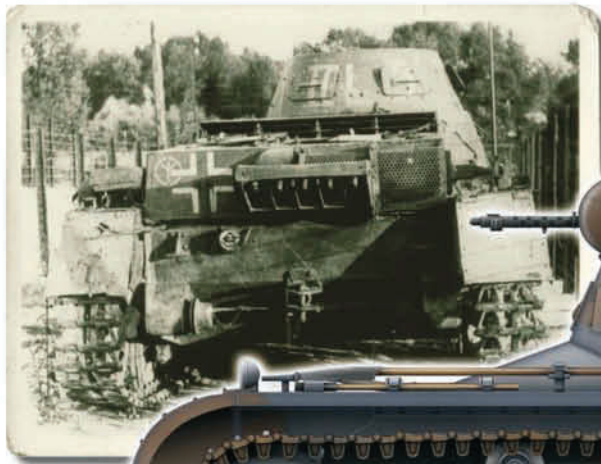




Although an official unit insignia comprising a yellow letter Y followed by a large dot had been allocated to 8. Panzer-Division, and indeed used in the Polish campaign by 3. leichte-Division, the marking shown here of a large cross was employed throughout the 1940 battles. The number of the Pzkw II depicted at left, 5L3, carried on a rhomboid shaped metal plate on the hull side is not so easily explained although it may follow a system known to have been used by 4. Panzer-Division where the staff vehicles of the light companies were marked, somewhat superfluously, with the letter L.



Below, centre: Pzkw I ausf B. 5. Panzer-Division. The markings of this division's tanks, including the yellow rhomboid symbol and the use of a two-digit turret number, had changed little since the Polish campaign. Of note is the official unit sign, painted behind the hollow Balkenkreuz. Large turret numbers were frequently seen on these light tanks in 1940 and a further example is depicted on the unidentified Pzkw I ausf A, shown below right, and the Pzkw I ausf B of II. Abteilung, Panzer-Regiment 36, 4. Panzer-Division in the photograph at left. Above left is shown an example of one of the coloured air recognition panels which were intended to replace the painted white rectangles previously in use. Of note is the use of the solid white Balkenkreuz of 1939 which could still be seen on the upper surfaces of vehicles fighting in France.



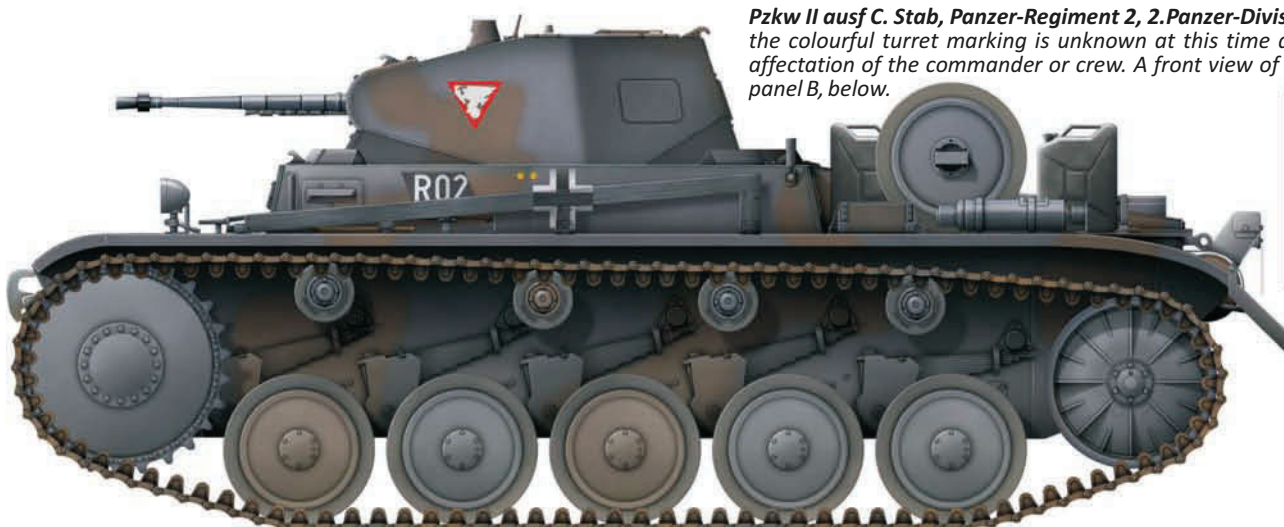
Prior to the invasion of France and the Low Countries divisional formation signs, based on runic symbols, were allocated for each Panzer division. These signs were to be displayed, in yellow, on an appropriate surface - usually the hull front, rear or side or the turret. Variations existed however and the official versions were sometimes ignored altogether. Shown above are several examples all based on contemporary photographs:- A) This 2. Panzer-Division Pzkw IV features the rhomboid tactical marking denoting a fully tracked armoured unit, which incorporates the division's official insignia of two large dots. This combination style of marking may have been restricted to the division's Panzer-Regiment 3; B) 5. Panzer-Division. It is probable that the armoured regiments of the division were identified by the yellow and black rhomboid shape seen here and the solid yellow version seen on the Pzkw I above; C) At least one source has suggested that the circular marking shown on this Befehlspanzer I was used by Panzer-Regiment 15 of 5. Panzer-Division. Although this identification is far from conclusive we have been able to examine a contemporary photograph of a Pzkw II carrying the circle marking on the turret side and a number 12 which is almost identical in style and size to that shown in the previous panel, showing that some link is at least possible; D) This Pzkw IV carries the official unit insignia of 6. Panzer-Division; E) Although the official unit insignia allocated to 8. Panzer-Division was made up of a letter Y followed by one large dot, photographic evidence shows that this cross symbol was used in France. Confusingly, this marking was adopted by 5. Panzer-Division in late 1940 or early 1941; F) This Pzkw IV provides an example of the use of an official unit marking, this time denoting 9. Panzer-Division, which was previously thought to have come into use after the French campaign. The two crosses were carried either at the front of the hull, as shown here, or on the side behind the vision port. Less frequently this marking can sometimes be seen painted onto the turret side. G) and H) The tanks of Panzer-Regiment 8 from 10. Panzer-Division were identified by this white Wolfsangel marking in addition to the division's official symbol of a letter Y followed by three dots. Note that the Wolfsangel rune is reversed on these two vehicles which may, or may not, be significant. The coloured bars may identify individual companies but their exact meaning is not clear at this time; I) The large letter G shown here on this Pzkw III was used to identify the divisions of Panzergruppe Guderian, formed on 5 June from XIX. Armee-korps. The rhomboid marking, which could be yellow, is similar to that used by 2. Panzer-Division which was indeed part of Guderian's command; J) The large letter K shown on the fender of this Pzkw IV identifies a unit of Panzergruppe Kleist.



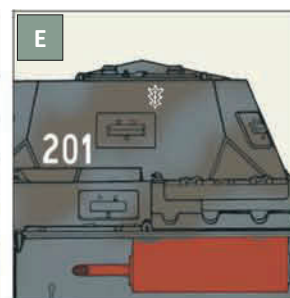
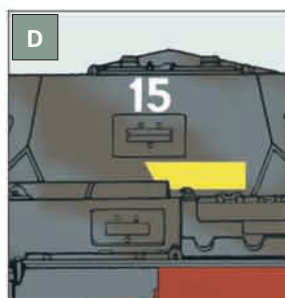
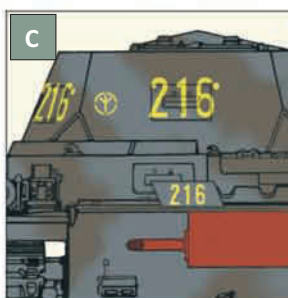
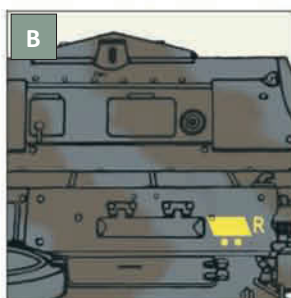
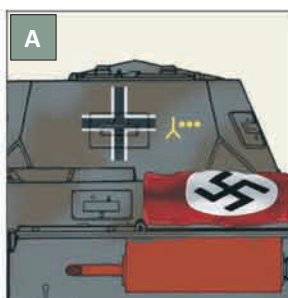
Pzkw II ausf C. 3.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 25, 7.Panzer-Division. These large, red outlined white turret numbers were an identifying feature of the tanks of this division. The unit insignia, shown at right, was usually placed at the front or rear of the hull and sometimes both.



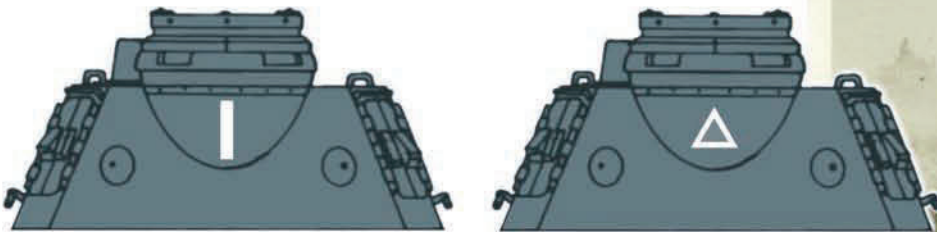
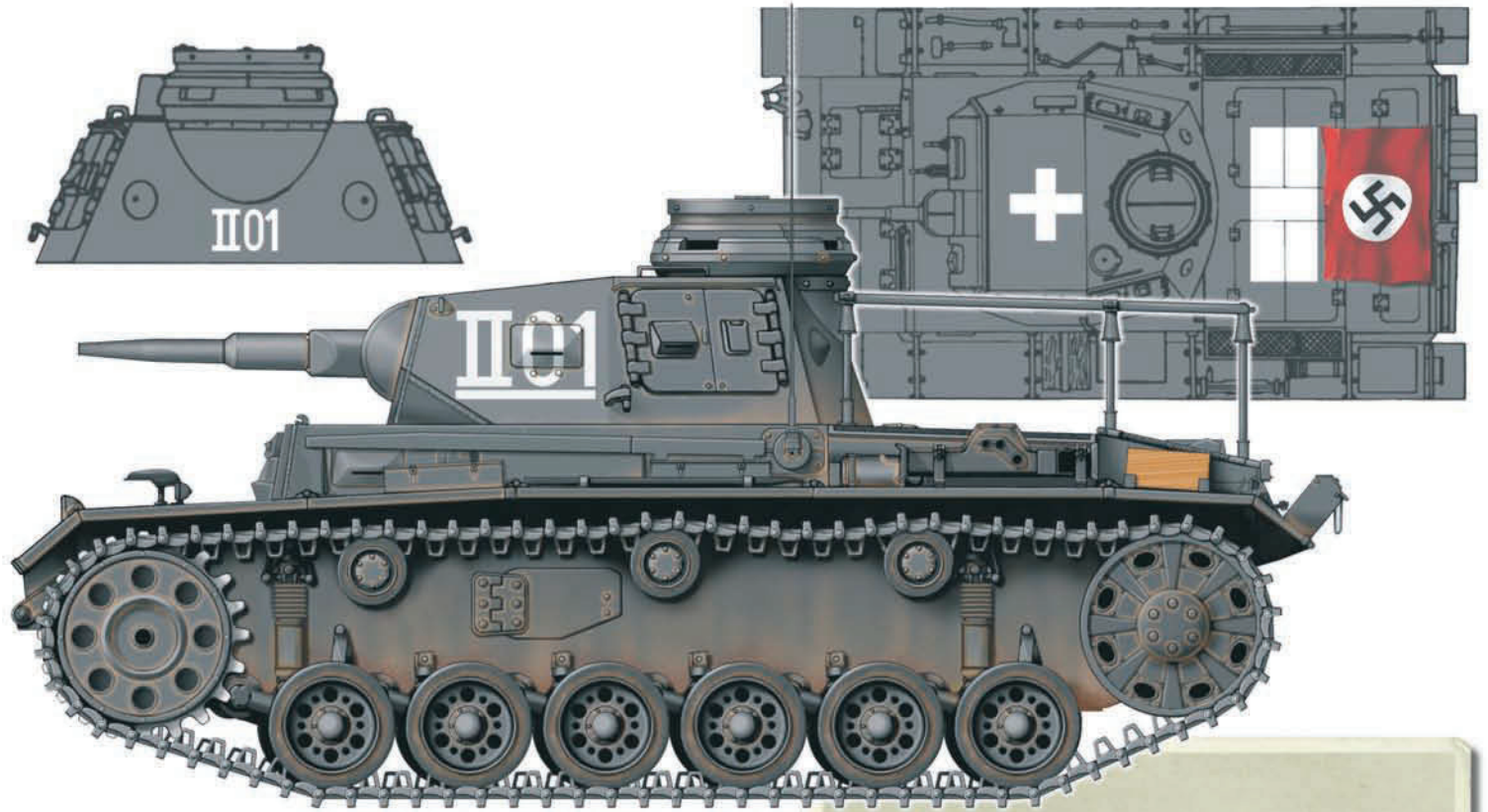
Pzkw II ausf C. 3.Panzer-Division. The use of a large Roman 1 to signify a 1st battalion headquarters was a common practice throughout the war. The division's unit insignia, marked here on the turret front, was based on the silhouette of the Brandenburg Gate, the division being recruited from the Berlin area.



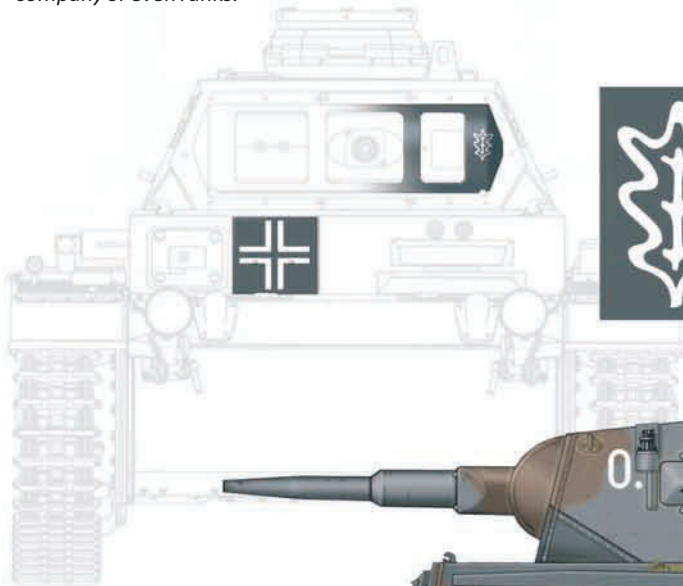
Pzkw II ausf C. Stab, Panzer-Regiment 2, 2.Panzer-Division. The significance of the colourful turret marking is unknown at this time and may be a personal affectation of the commander or crew. A front view of this vehicle is shown in panel B, below.



In May 1940 the German Army in the West had over nine hundred of these light tanks on hand distributed among the sixteen Panzer regiments and three semi-independent battalions available to Oberbefehlshaber West. Fast and mechanically reliable they were however no match for the heavier French and British tanks and their usefulness was limited to reconnaissance. Shown here are examples of typical unit markings and insignia all based on contemporary photographs: A) The official unit insignia of 7. Panzer-Division. The German flag incorporating the National Socialist Hakenkreuz emblem was increasingly used as a means of aerial recognition as the campaign progressed; B) The official unit insignia used by at least one of the tank regiments of 2. Panzer-Division, the letter R denoting a regimental headquarters. The marking was carried by the tank depicted in the profile above; C) 4. Panzer-Division. The large dot following the turret number identifies Panzer-Regiment 36; D) An example of the large yellow rhomboid marking used by 5. Panzer-Division and discussed on the previous page. This example has been squared off to fit the available space; E) 1. Panzer-Division. Although the runic symbol of an inverted letter Y was allocated to this division it is seldom seen on tanks, the Oak Leaf motif shown here being preferred.

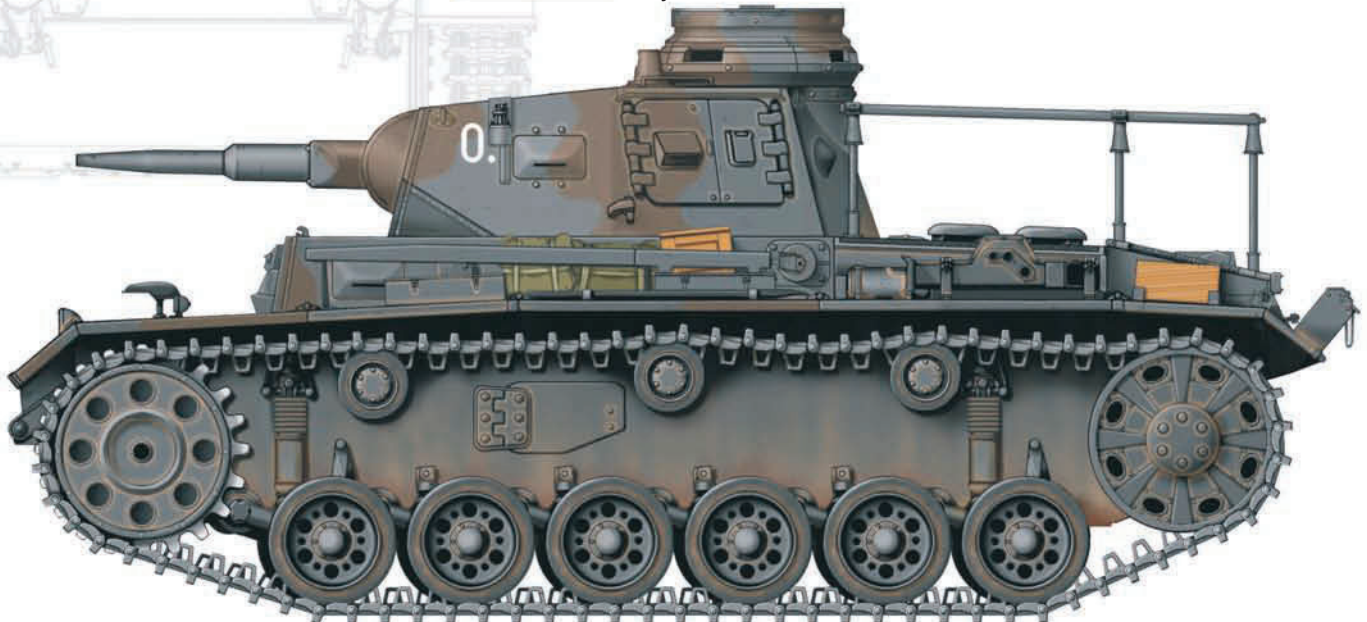


Above and at right: Examples of the system of marking seen on a number of tanks of Panzer-Regiment 1. Although the meaning of these geometric shapes is not known, they may have been a quick means to identify platoons within a company or even ranks.

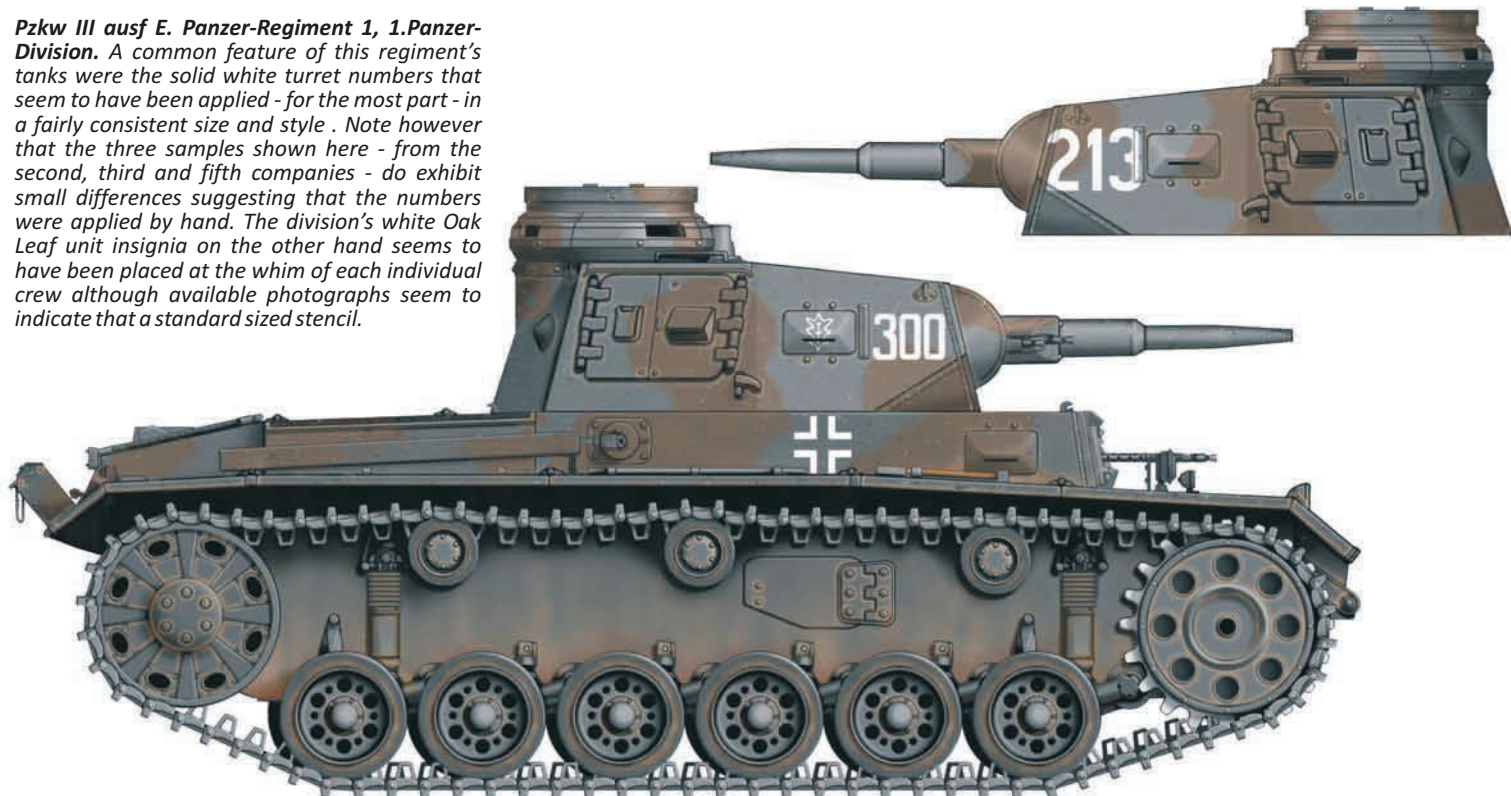


At top: Panzerbefehlswagen III ausf E. II.Abteilung, Panzer-Regiment 2, 1.Panzer-Division. The personal mount of Hauptmann Gitterman, the commander of II.Abteilung, this tank was disabled near Cherhery, east of Reims, and photographed from several angles allowing us to be precise about the markings. Note the early style aerial recognition marking of a white rectangle and solid white Balkenkreuz.

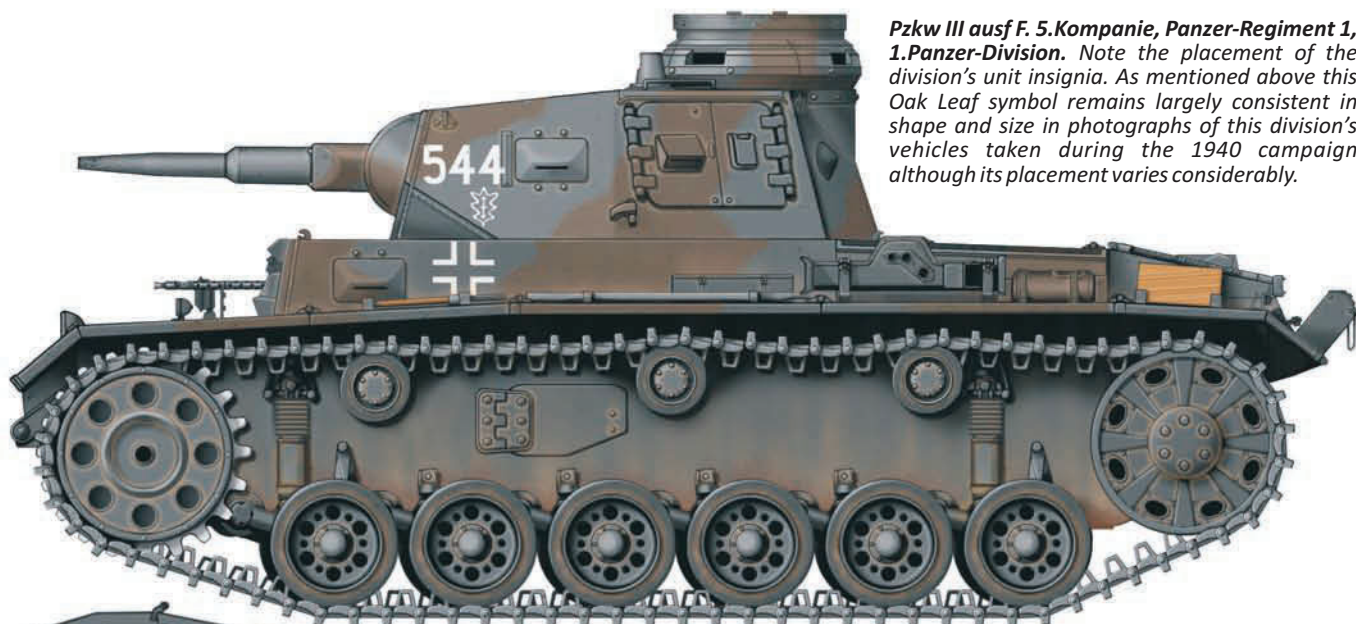
At left and below: Panzerbefehlswagen III ausf E. 1.Panzer-Division. Although we cannot be certain, this tank's number may indicate that it was attached to the headquarters of one of the Panzer regiments of 1.Panzer-Division - possibly Panzer-Regiment 2. Note the unit insignia on the gun mantlet and the Balkenkreuz painted onto the additional armour plate at the hull front.



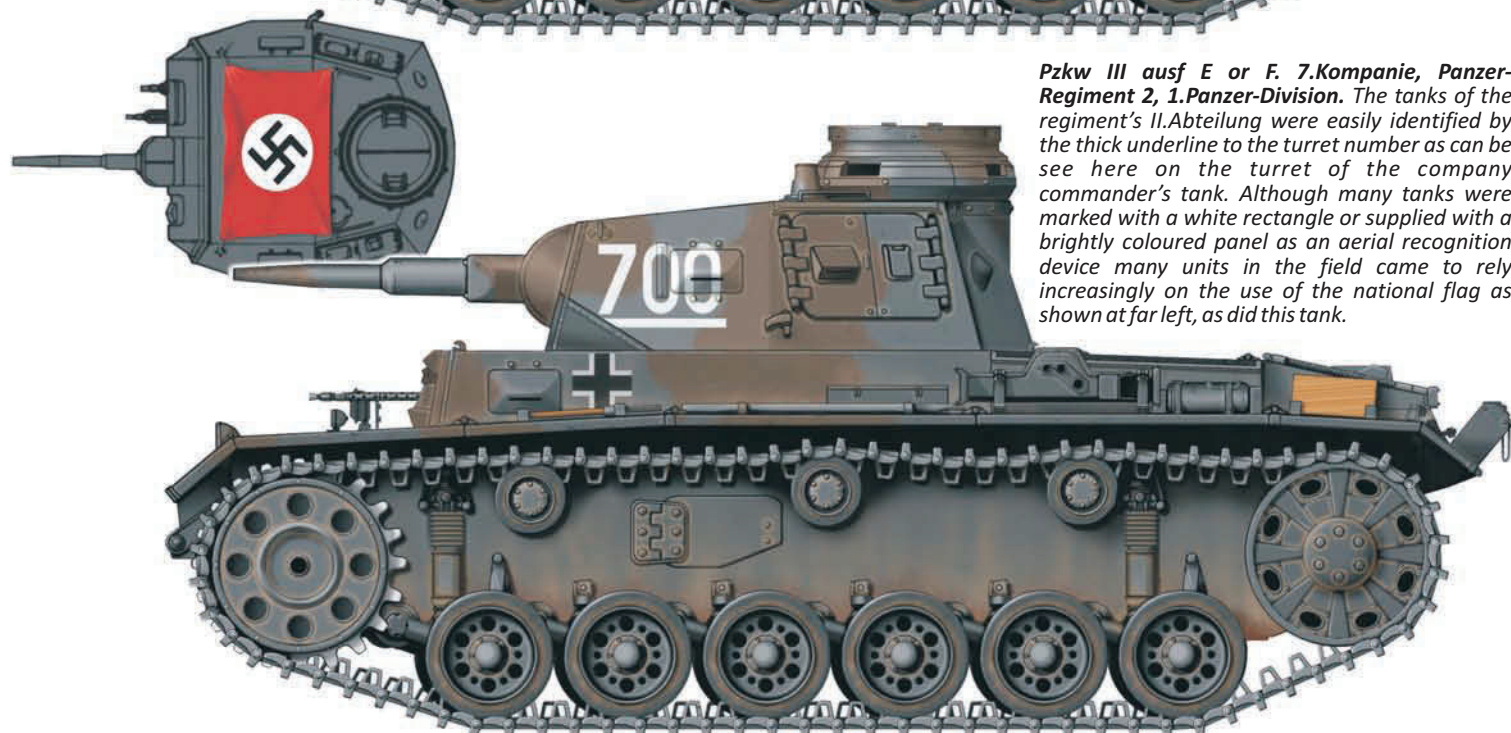
Pzkw III ausf E. Panzer-Regiment 1, 1.Panzer-Division. A common feature of this regiment's tanks were the solid white turret numbers that seem to have been applied - for the most part - in a fairly consistent size and style. Note however that the three samples shown here - from the second, third and fifth companies - do exhibit small differences suggesting that the numbers were applied by hand. The division's white Oak Leaf unit insignia on the other hand seems to have been placed at the whim of each individual crew although available photographs seem to indicate that a standard sized stencil.



Pzkw III ausf F. 5.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 1, 1.Panzer-Division. Note the placement of the division's unit insignia. As mentioned above this Oak Leaf symbol remains largely consistent in shape and size in photographs of this division's vehicles taken during the 1940 campaign although its placement varies considerably.

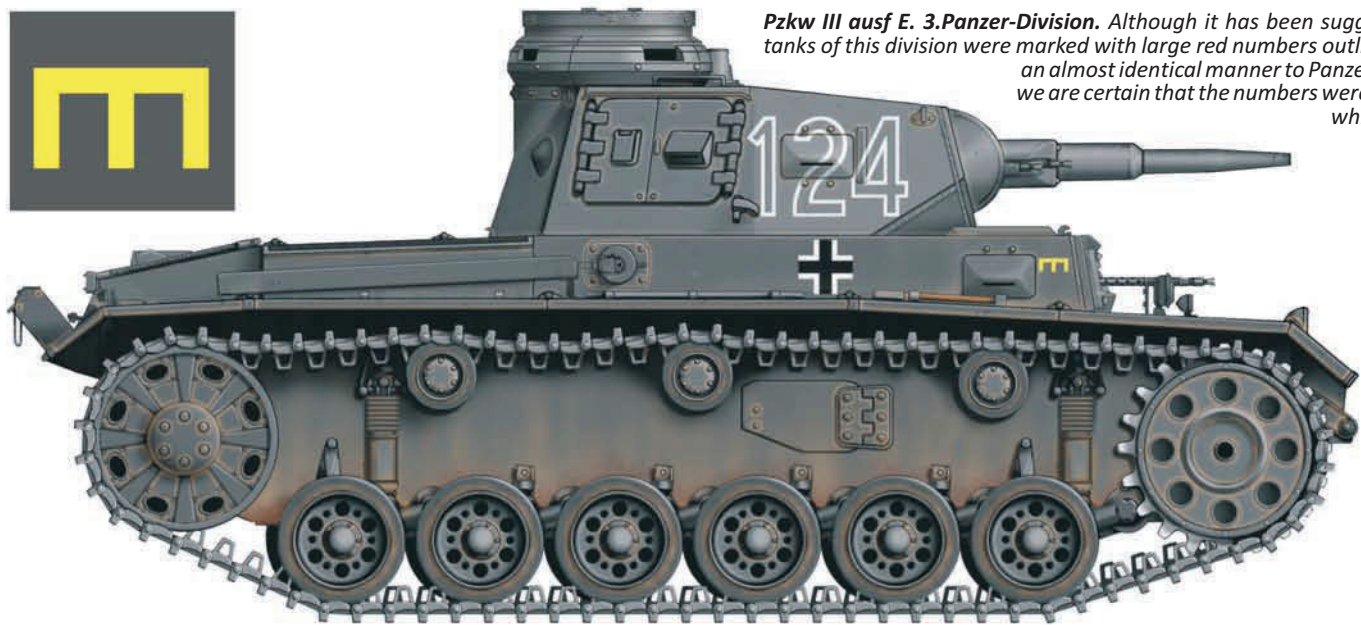


Pzkw III ausf E or F. 7.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 2, 1.Panzer-Division. The tanks of the regiment's II.Abteilung were easily identified by the thick underline to the turret number as can be seen here on the turret of the company commander's tank. Although many tanks were marked with a white rectangle or supplied with a brightly coloured panel as an aerial recognition device many units in the field came to rely increasingly on the use of the national flag as shown at far left, as did this tank.

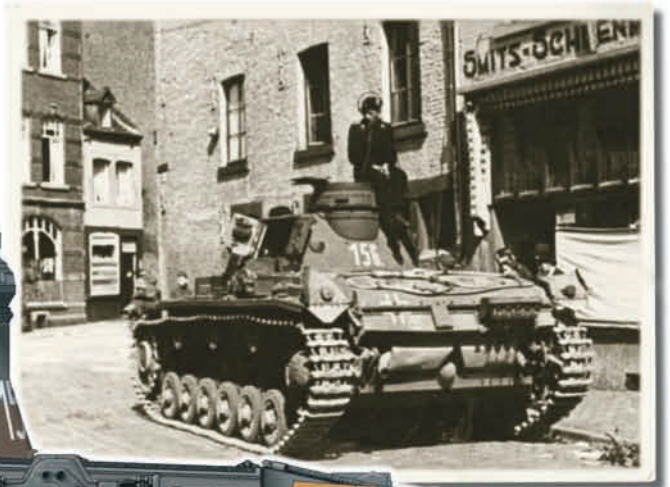
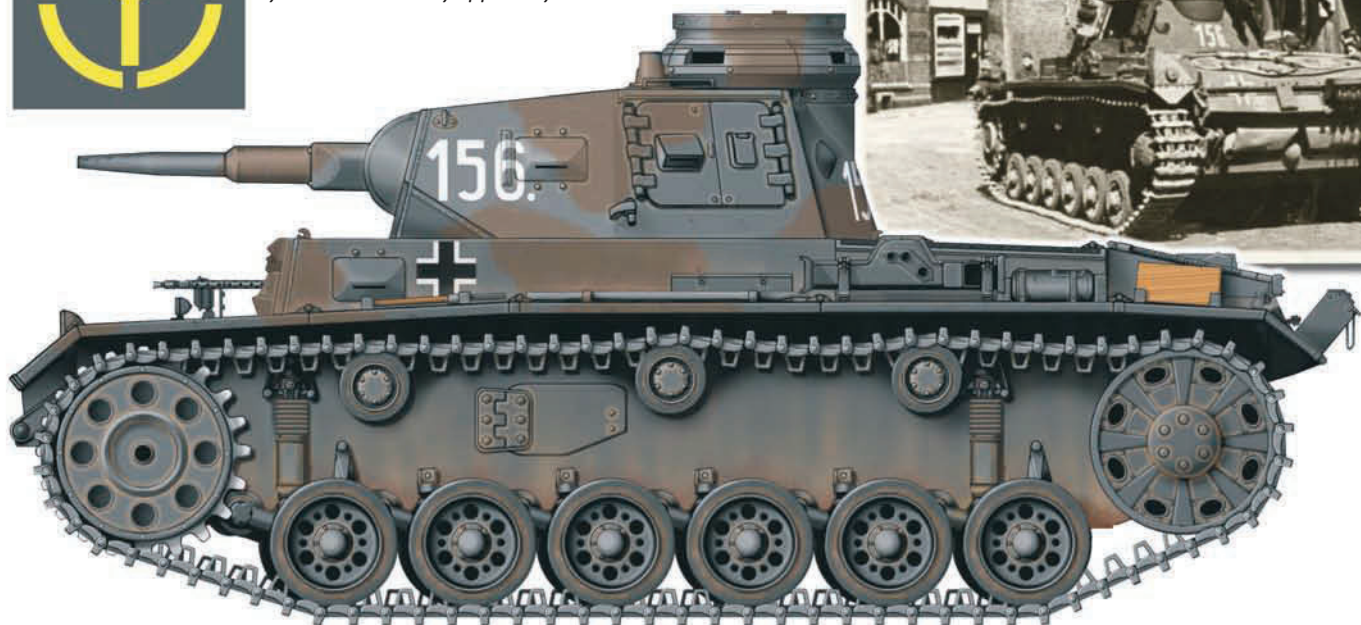




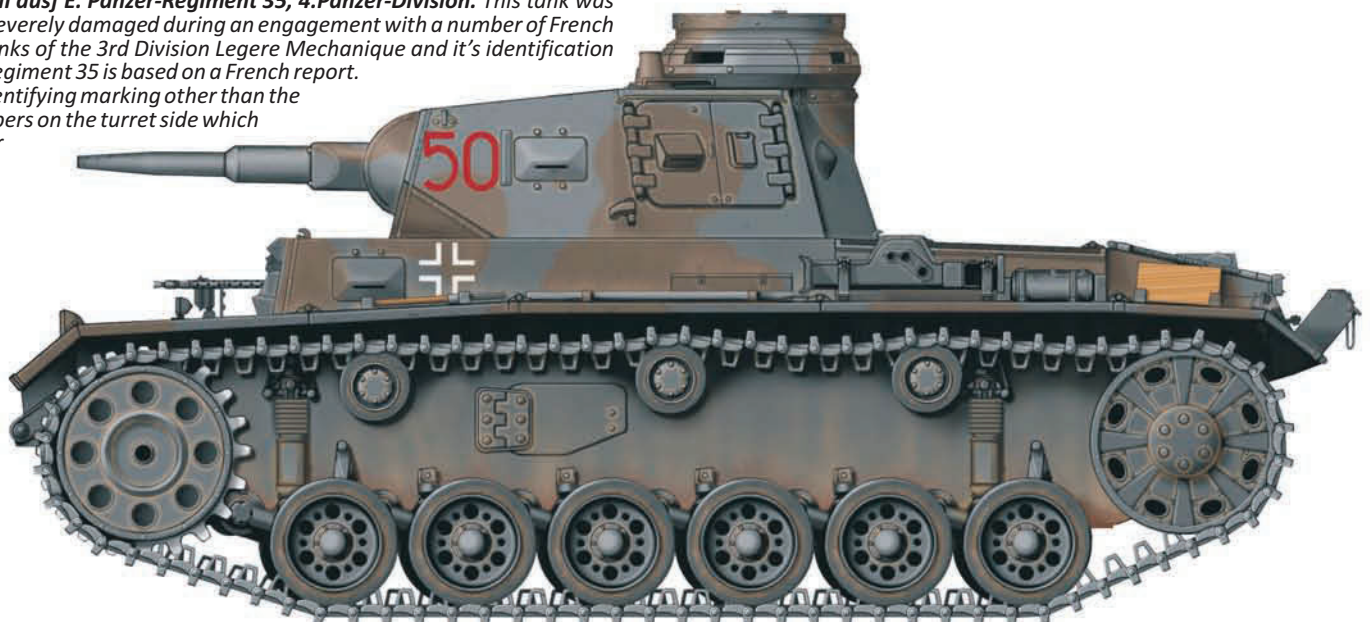
Pzkw III ausf E. 3.Panzer-Division. Although it has been suggested that the tanks of this division were marked with large red numbers outlined in white in an almost identical manner to Panzer-Regiment 25, we are certain that the numbers were rendered as a white outline only.

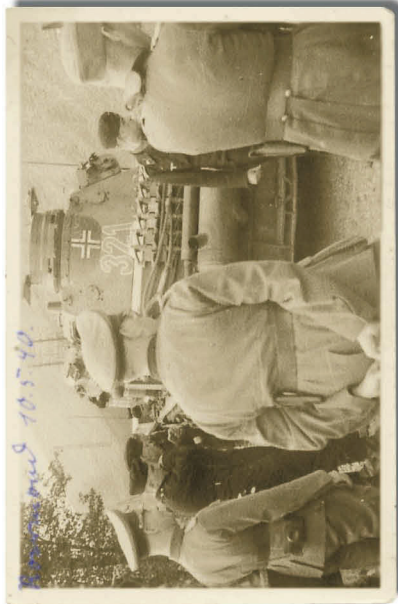


Below: Pzkw III ausf E or F. Panzer-Regiment 36, 4.Panzer-Division. The small dot following the turret number was an identifying feature of this regiment's tanks. At right: The photograph on which our illustration is based. Note the unit insignia - shown in an enlarged version at left - just to the right of the Balkenkreuz on the hull rear plate. Available photographs show that this runic sign - the so called Man symbol - was usually applied by stencil as here.



Below: Pzkw III ausf E. Panzer-Regiment 35, 4.Panzer-Division. This tank was disabled and severely damaged during an engagement with a number of French Somua S 35 tanks of the 3rd Division Legere Mechanique and it's identification with Panzer-Regiment 35 is based on a French report. It carries no identifying marking other than the large red numbers on the turret side which are unusual for this period.





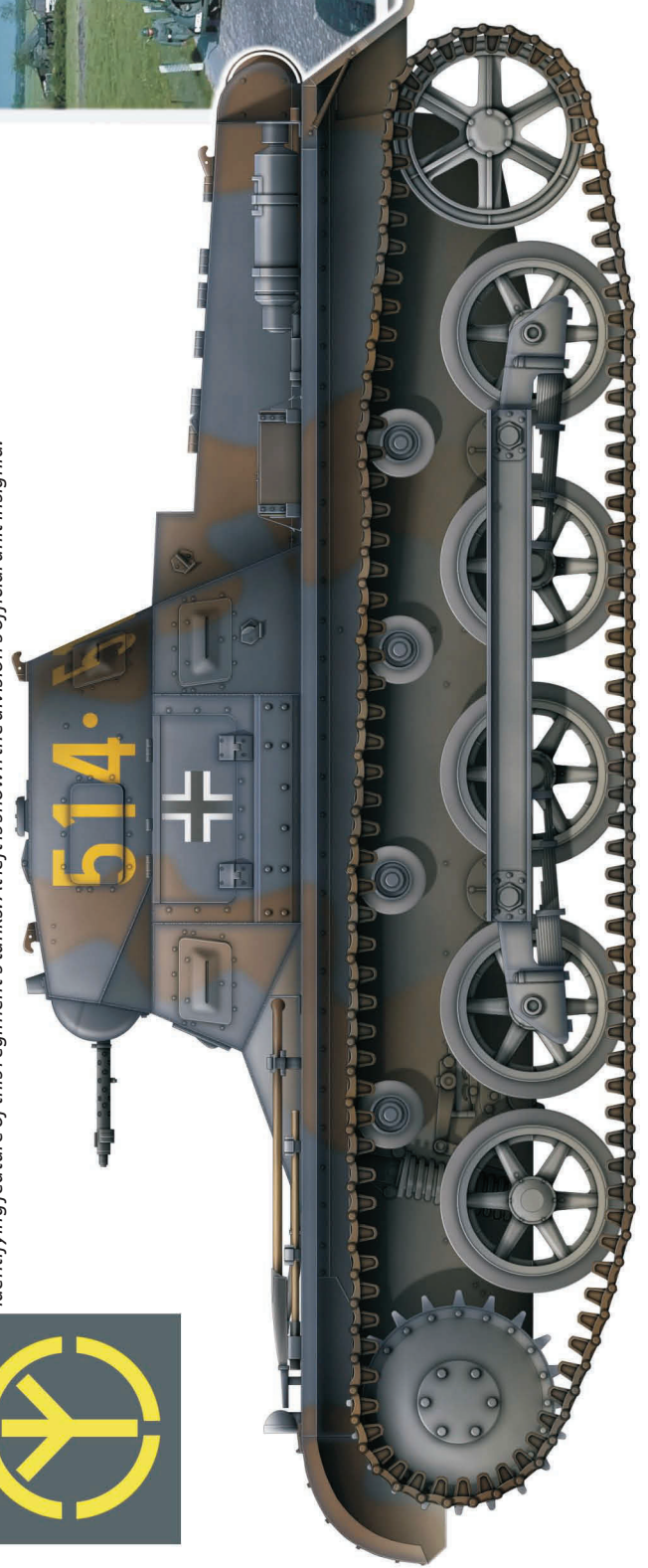
Pzkw IV auf D. 3. Kompanie, Panzer-Abteilung 66, 7. Panzer-Division. This vehicle is also shown in the photograph at the top of page 26. Our photograph above shows tank number 321 and its crew being observed by the division commander, Generalmajor Erwin Rommel. The division's unit insignia, shown at far right, was usually carried on the hull front to the left of the driver's visor and this arrangement is shown and discussed on page 20.



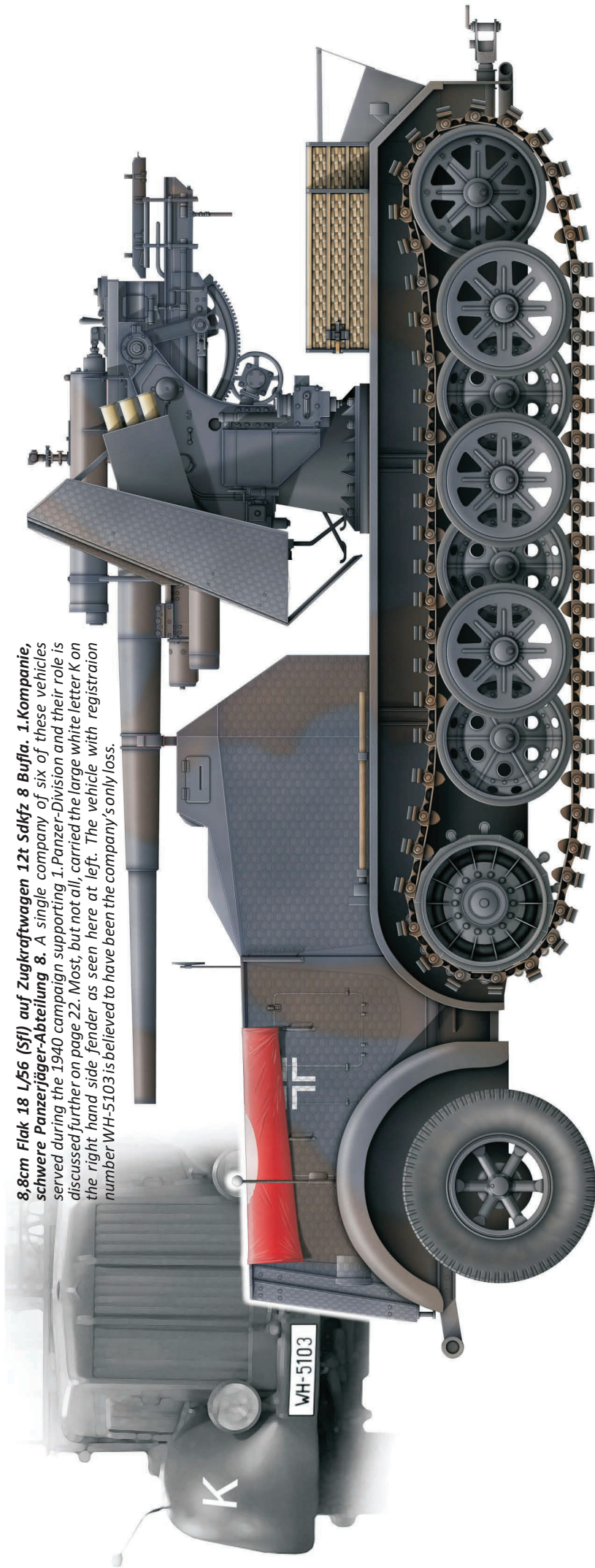
Pzkw I auf B. Panzer-Regiment 36, 4. Panzer-Division. The large dot following the turret number was an identifying feature of this regiment's tanks. At left is shown the division's official unit insignia.



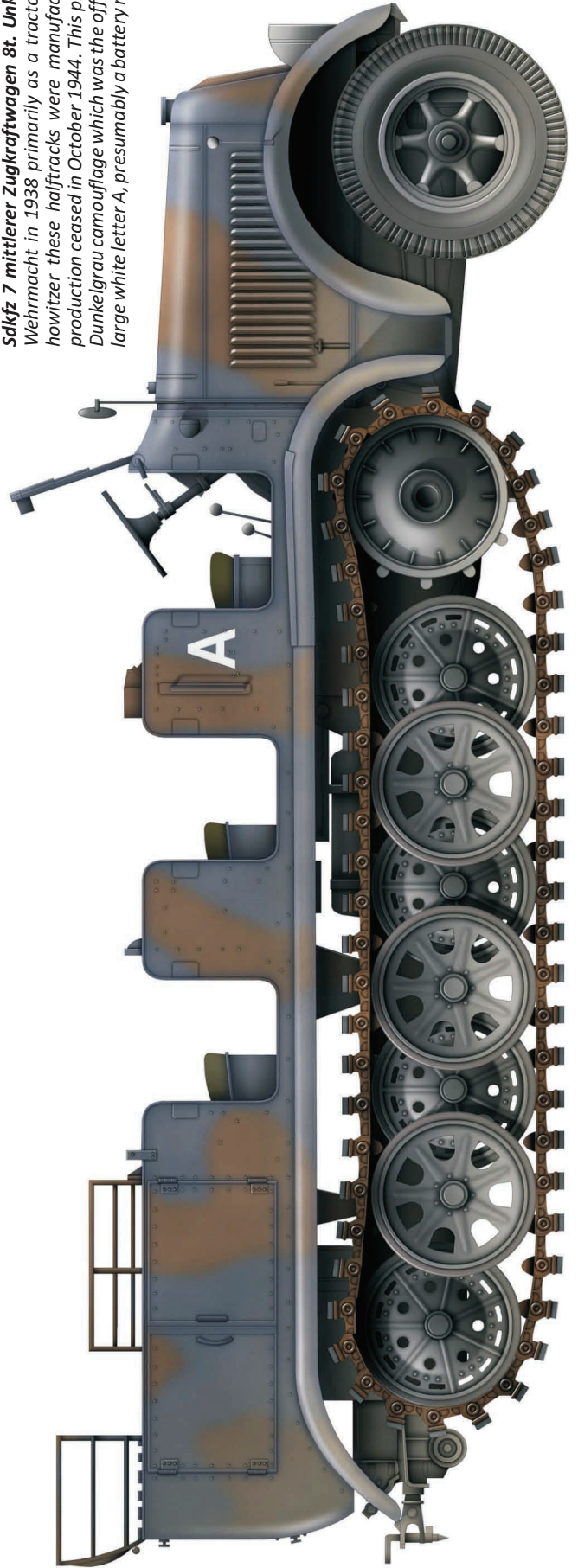
Officially all German army vehicles at this time were painted in the two-colour camouflage scheme shown on this Pzkw I. However colour photographs exist that show some at least were painted overall in Dunkelgrau suggesting that this may have been common in some units before the order of July 1940 formally stipulated its use. Also shown in our photograph are the yellow aerial recognition panels that were introduced sometime after the Polish campaign.

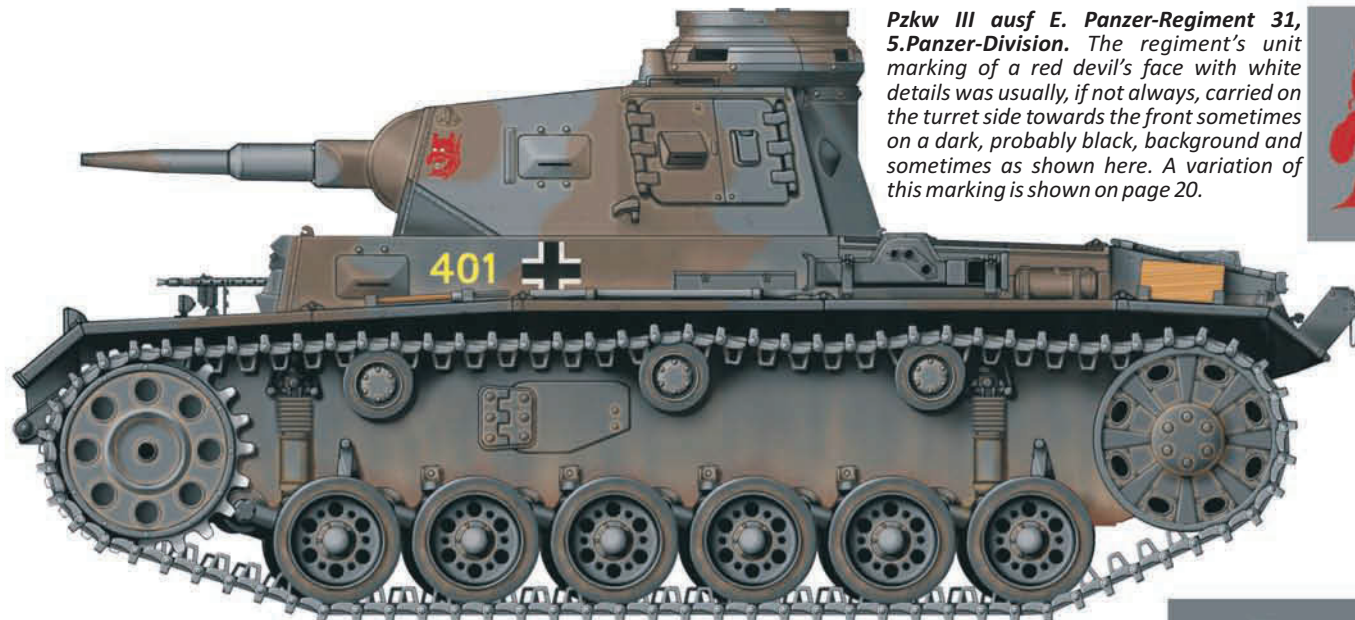


8.8cm Flak 18 L/56 (Sf) auf Zugkraftwagen 12t Sdkfz 8 Bufla. 1.Kompanie, schwere Panzerjäger-Abteilung 8. A single company of six of these vehicles served during the 1940 campaign supporting 1.Panzer-Division and their role is discussed further on page 22. Most, but not all, carried the large white letter K on the right hand side fender as seen here at left. The vehicle with registration number WH-5103 is believed to have been the company's only loss.



Sdkfz 7 mittlerer Zugkraftwagen 8t. Unknown unit. Introduced into the Wehrmacht in 1938 primarily as a tractor for the 8.8cm Flak and 15cm howitzer these halftracks were manufactured in huge numbers before production ceased in October 1944. This profile shows the Dunkelbraun on Dunkelgrau camouflage which was the official standard in May 1940 and a large white letter A, presumably a battery number.

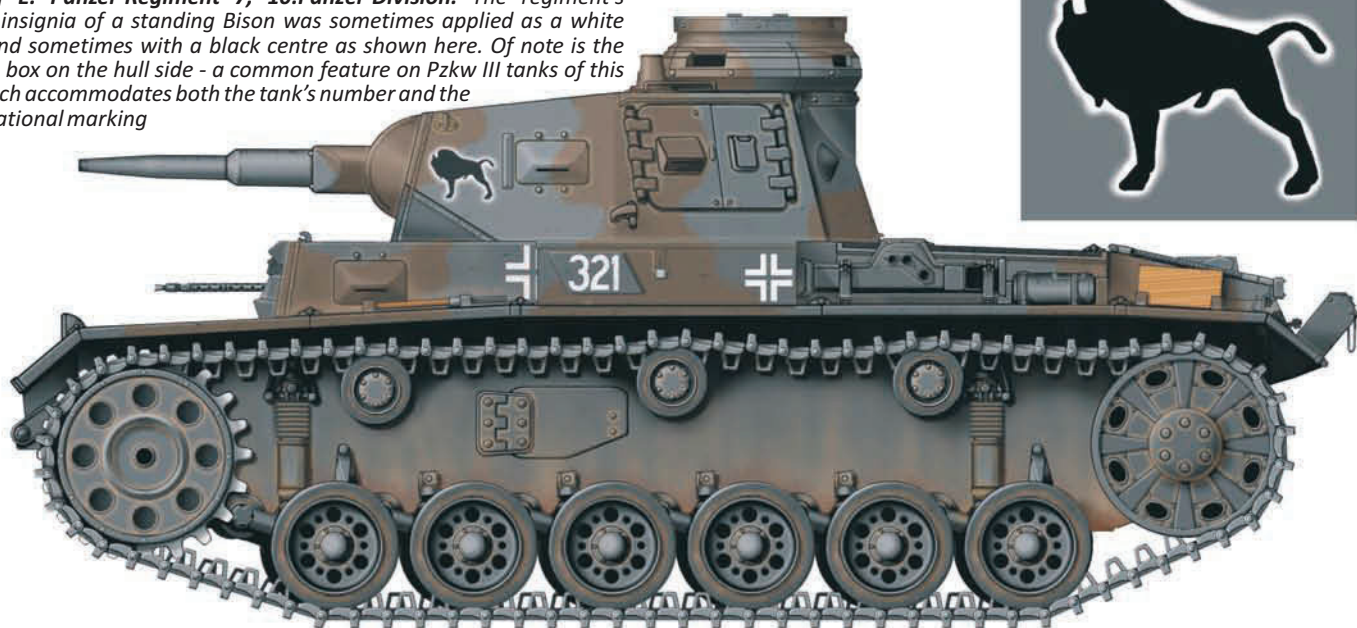




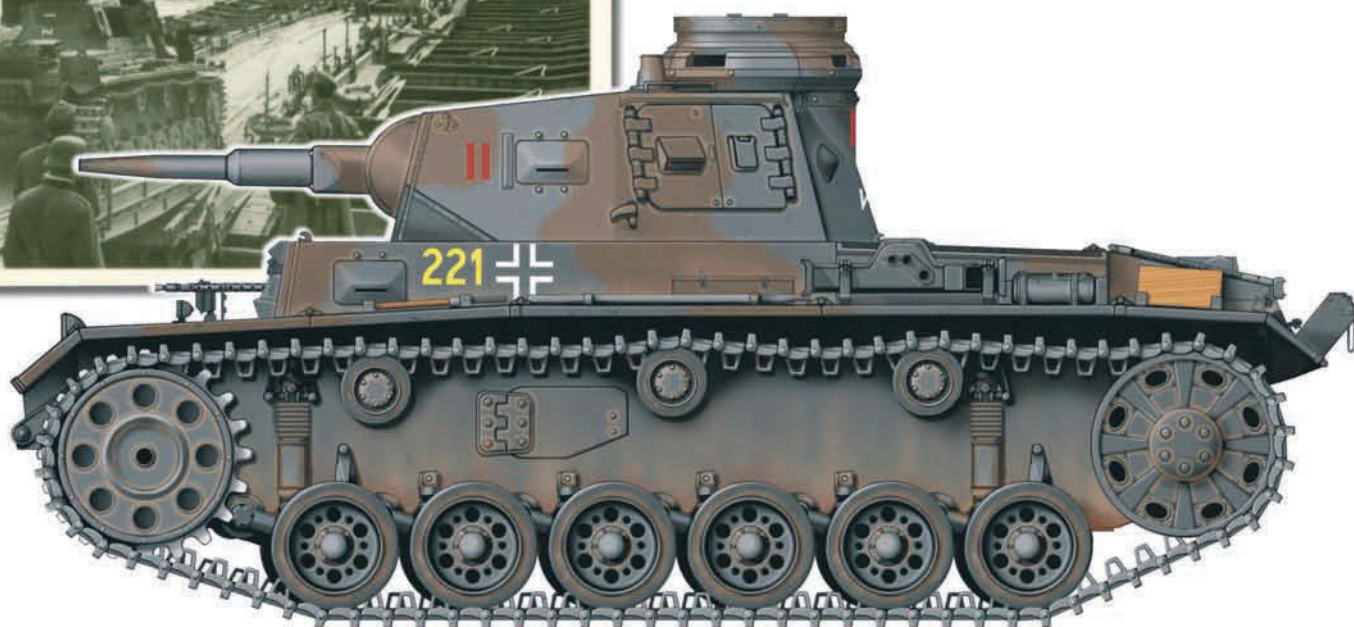
Pzkw III ausf E. Panzer-Regiment 31, 5. Panzer-Division. The regiment's unit marking of a red devil's face with white details was usually, if not always, carried on the turret side towards the front sometimes on a dark, probably black, background and sometimes as shown here. A variation of this marking is shown on page 20.



Pzkw III ausf E. Panzer-Regiment 7, 10. Panzer-Division. The regiment's colourful unit insignia of a standing Bison was sometimes applied as a white outline only and sometimes with a black centre as shown here. Of note is the large stowage box on the hull side - a common feature on Pzkw III tanks of this regiment - which accommodates both the tank's number and the Balkenkreuz national marking

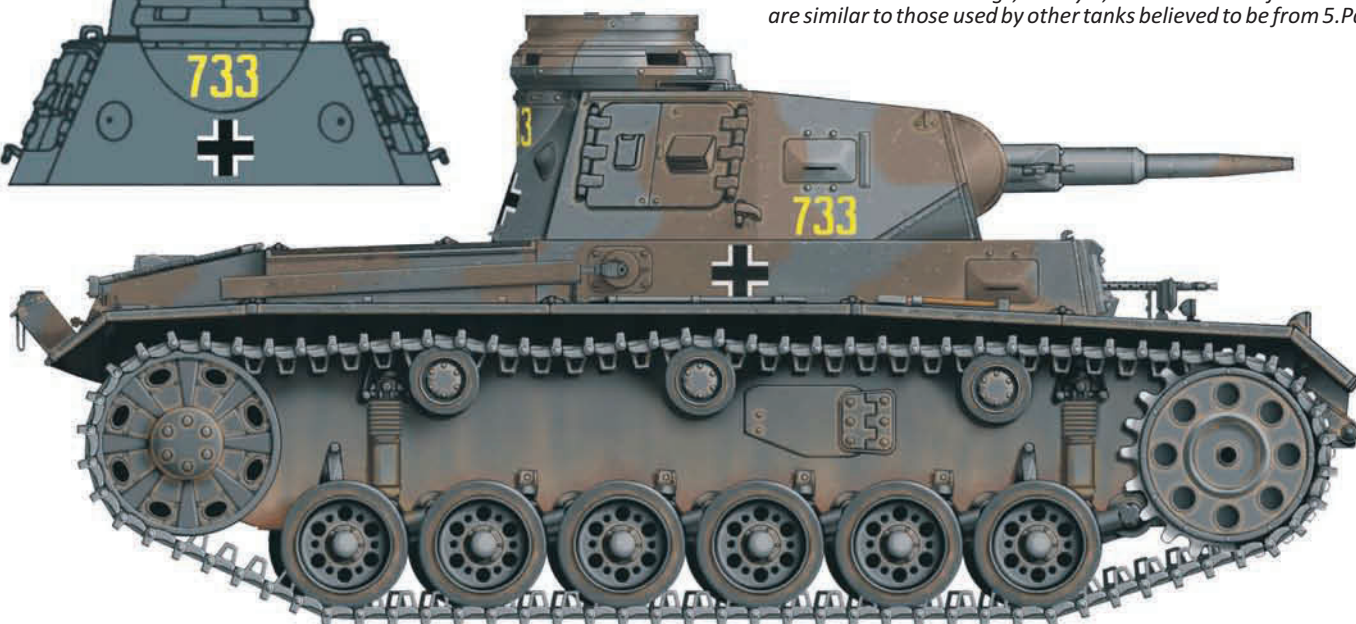


Pzkw III ausf E. Panzer-Regiment 8, 10. Panzer-Division. The tanks of this regiment are easily identified by the white Wolfsangel rune carried - usually - on the turret rear. The system of vertical and horizontal coloured bars is not fully understood at this time but may indicate a particular company within one of the regiment's two battalions. The photograph at left shows another variation of the system. The markings of this regiment are discussed further in the illustration section on page 11 and page 20.

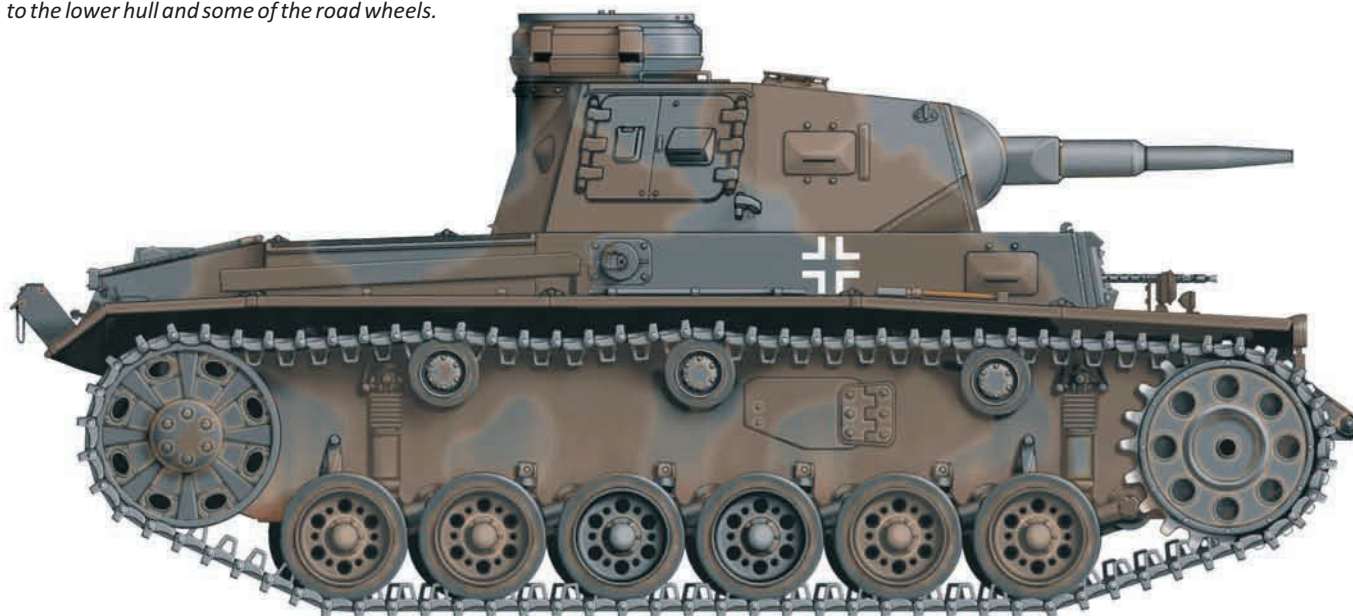




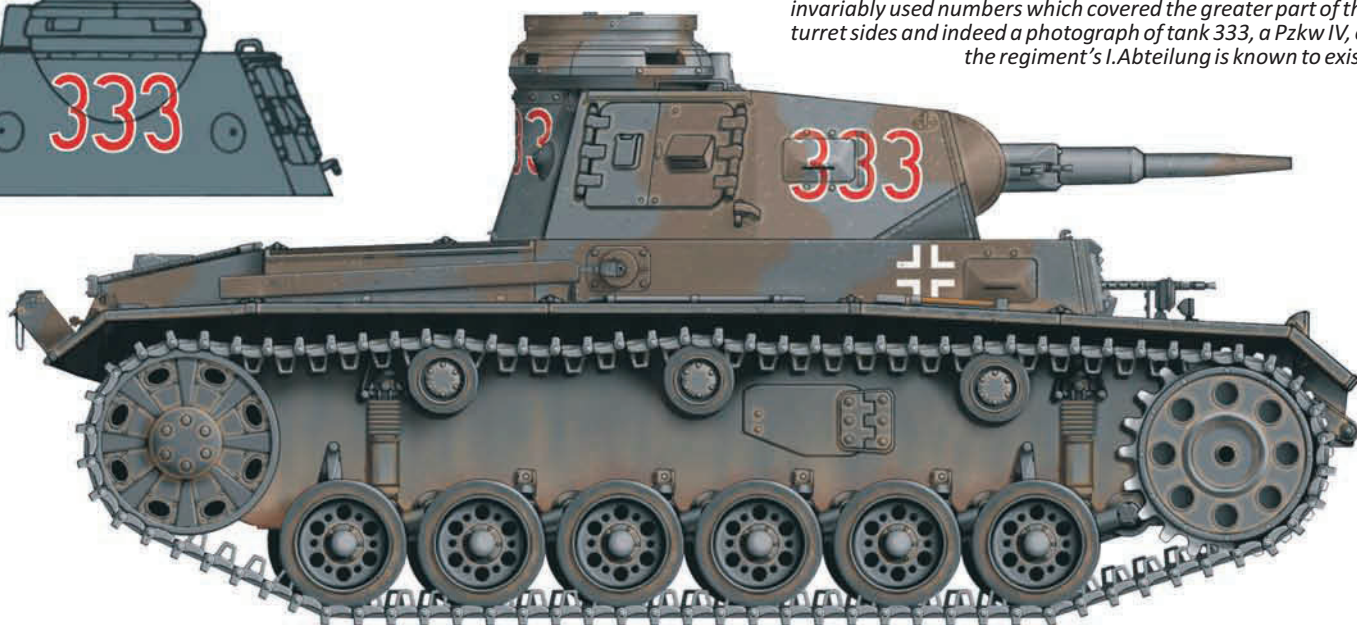
Pzkw III ausf E. Unit unknown. Although it is impossible to identify the unit to which this vehicle belongs, the style, size and colour of this tank's number 733, are similar to those used by other tanks believed to be from 5. Panzer-Division.



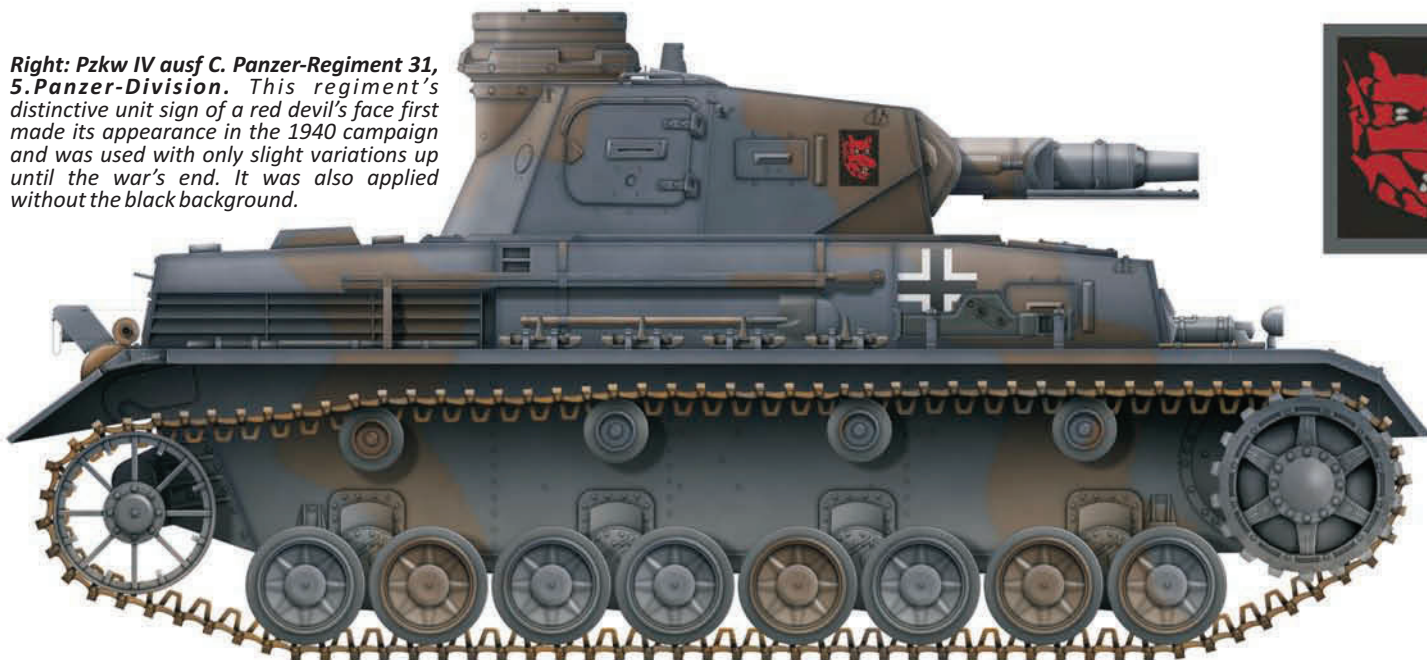
Pzkw III ausf G. Unknown unit. This illustration is actually a composite based on images of two early model ausf G tanks photographed in 1940. The first was photographed in training immediately prior to the invasion of France and the Low Countries and the second was photographed at Daimler-Benz assembly plant in Germany. Both show clearly the use of the two-colour camouflage scheme of Dunkelbraun on a base of Dunkelgrau. In the latter image the edges of the brown patches have been feathered to such an extent that they appear as a slightly lighter outline. Both photographs show that the brown camouflage was extended to the lower hull and some of the road wheels.



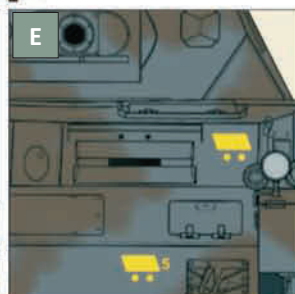
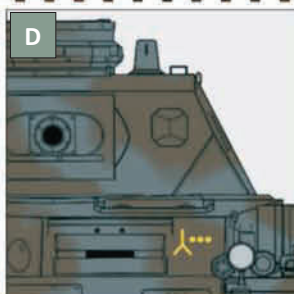
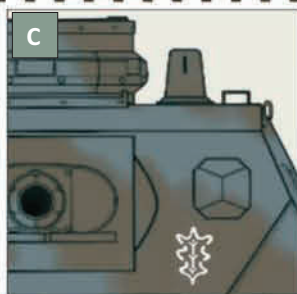
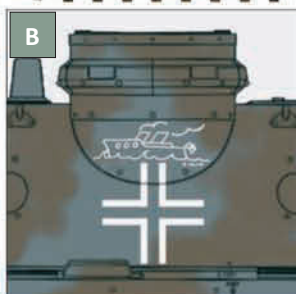
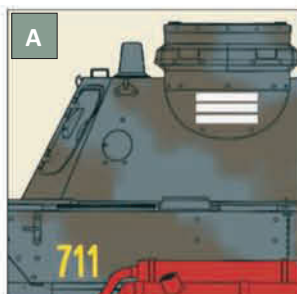
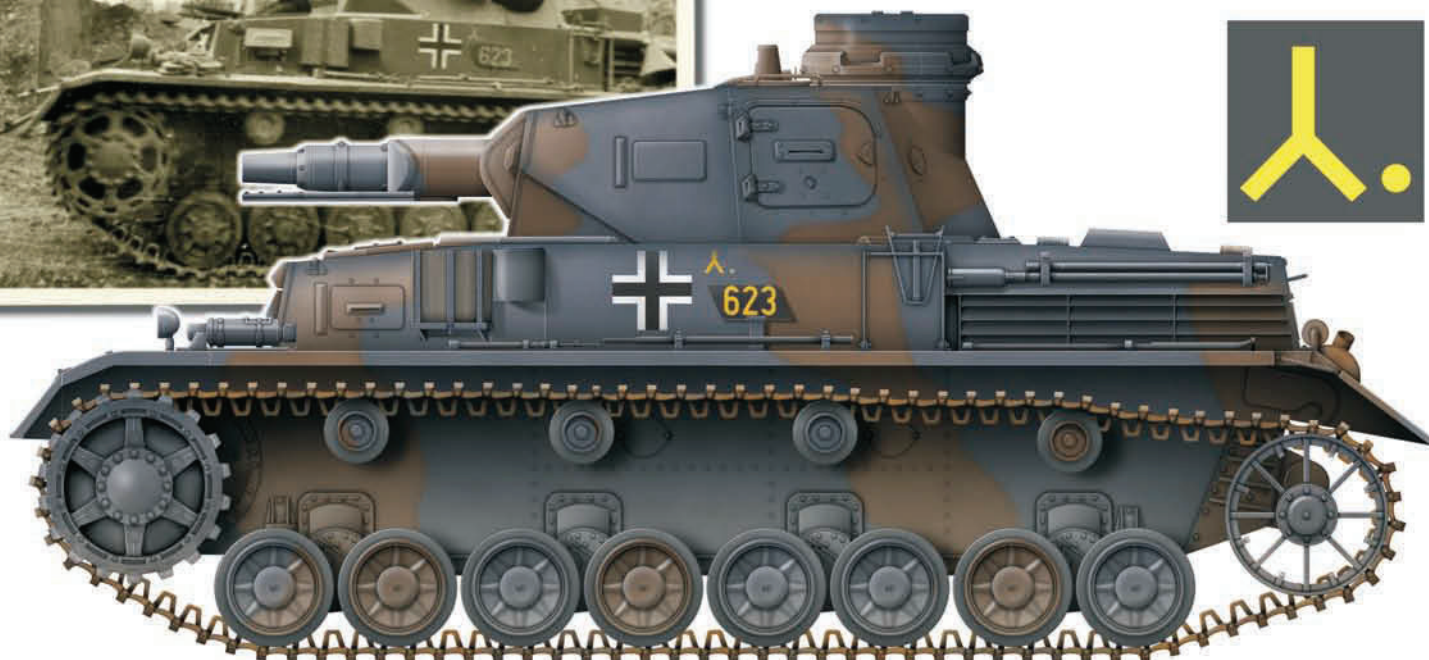
Pzkw III ausf E or F. Unit unknown. Photographed at a repair depot after the conclusion of the French campaign this tank has the large red turret numbers outlined in white that are usually indicative of the tanks of 7. Panzer-Division while their position and size would suggest Panzer-Abteilung 66. The tanks of the division's Panzer-Regiment 25 invariably used numbers which covered the greater part of the turret sides and indeed a photograph of tank 333, a Pzkw IV, of the regiment's I. Abteilung is known to exist.



Right: Pzkw IV ausf C. Panzer-Regiment 31, 5. Panzer-Division. This regiment's distinctive unit sign of a red devil's face first made its appearance in the 1940 campaign and was used with only slight variations up until the war's end. It was also applied without the black background.



Below: Pzkw IV ausf C. 6.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 31, 5. Panzer-Division. The use of small vehicle numbers was common within this division as was the metal rhomboid shaped plates used to display the number. In the original print of the photograph at left faint traces of the two-colour camouflage depicted in our illustration are visible. Not all this regiment's tanks carried the devil's face motif shown above and it is possible that it was a late addition to the campaign perhaps only appearing during Fall Rot, the follow up operation to Fall Gelb.



The Pzkw IV was the most powerful tank fielded by the Panzer divisions in 1940, although just 280 were available for the campaign in the west. The panels above, all based on contemporary photographs, show some of the variations in markings employed by these tanks: A) An example of the system of white bars used by Panzer-Regiment 8 of 10. Panzer-Division. The significance is not fully understood at this time; B) A very elaborate marking applied to commemorate the sinking of an Allied destroyer off the French coast near Boulogne by tanks of 3. Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 3, 2. Panzer-Division on 25 May 1940. More than one tank carried this marking with very slight variations in each and it is possible that its use was extended to all the tanks of the company's first platoon. C) The Oak Leaf insignia of 1. Panzer-Division was often applied to the turret front or rear on all types of tanks. From the available photographic evidence however it may be that only Panzer-Regiment 1 used this sign for its Pzkw IV medium tanks. Note that this example is in stencil form; D) Photographs suggest that the unit insignia of 7. Panzer-Division was carried in this position on the Pzkw IV ausf D and more often at the centre of the flat hull front of the ausf C model between the driver's visor and the machine gun mount; E) The combination insignia of 2. Panzer-Division incorporating the yellow rhomboid symbol denoting a tank formation and the division's official unit insignia of two large dots. This combination unit insignia may have been used by Panzer-Regiment 3 only with the division's Panzer-Regiment 4 tanks being identified by the two dot symbol alone. Note that here only the marking on the lower hull features the company number.



Pzkw 38(t). 1.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 25, 7.Panzer-Division. These large red numbers, outlined white and taking up much of the turret sides, were an identifying feature of this regiment. At left is the division's official unit insignia which on these tanks was usually applied at both the front and back of the vehicle either on the turret, the hull or sometimes both.

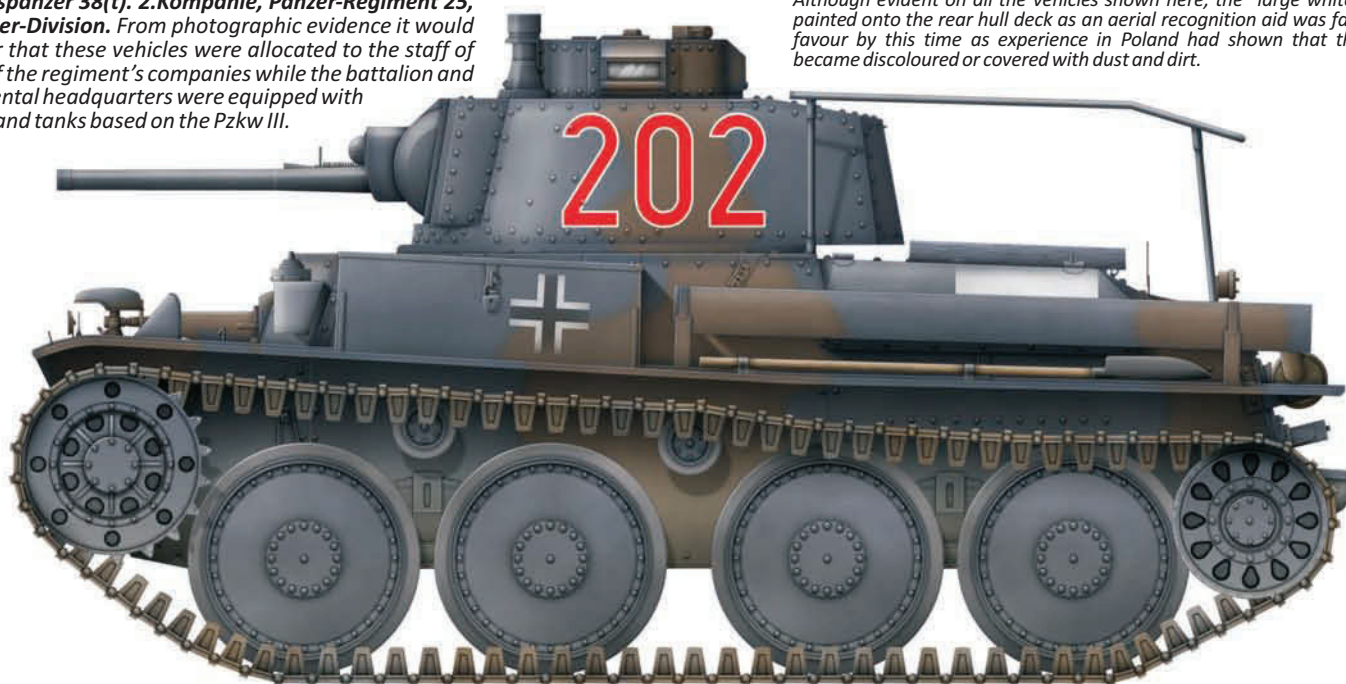


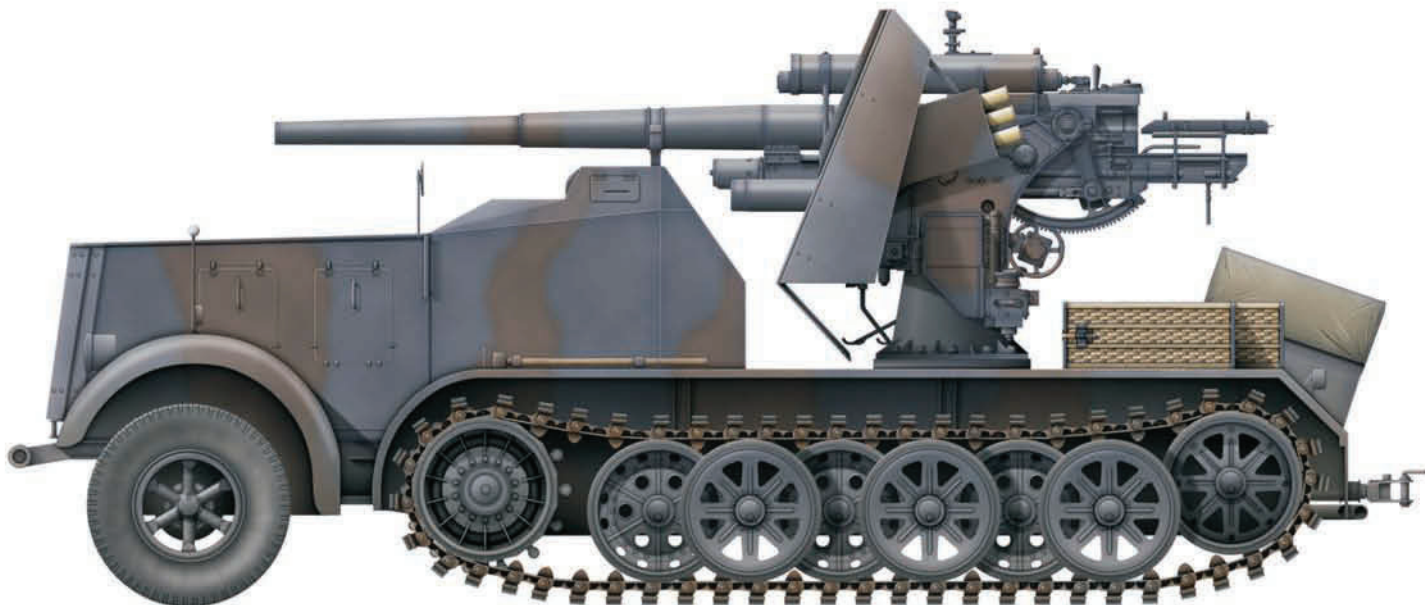
Pzkw 38(t). 2.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 25, 7.Panzer-Division. This regiment and Panzer-Abteilung 66, which was temporarily attached to the division, had ninety-one of these tanks on hand in May 1940. At far left is an example of the application of the Balkenkreuz and unit insignia to the turret rear.



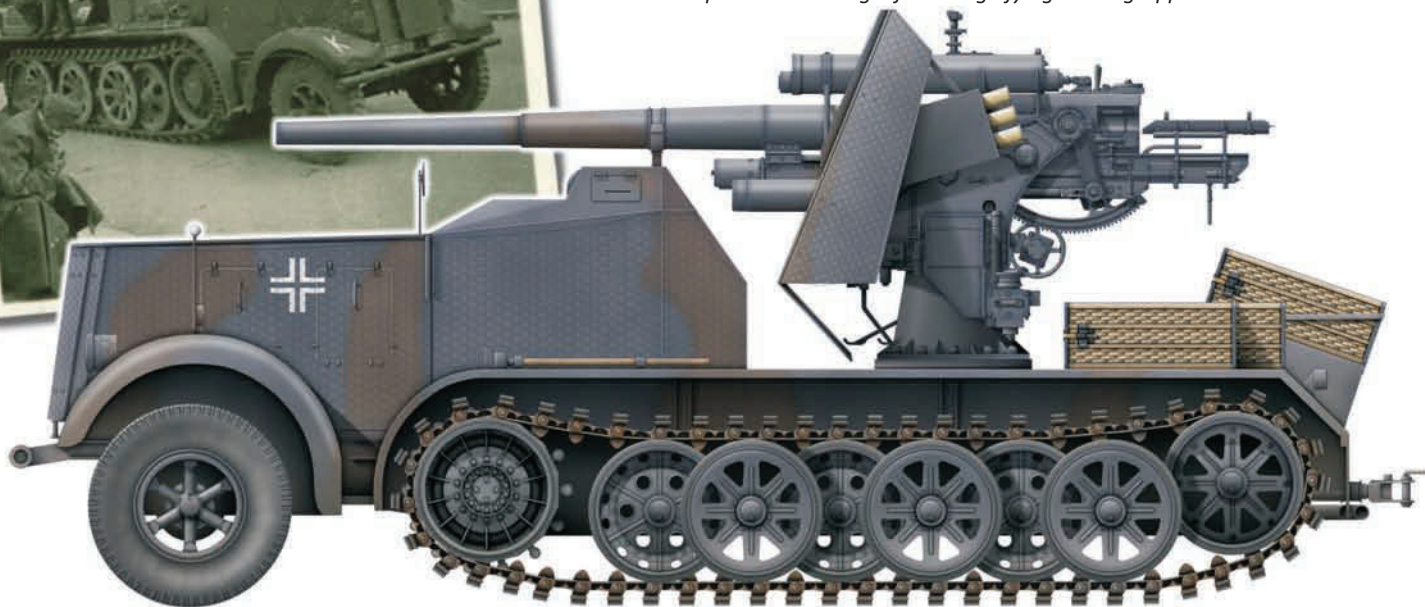
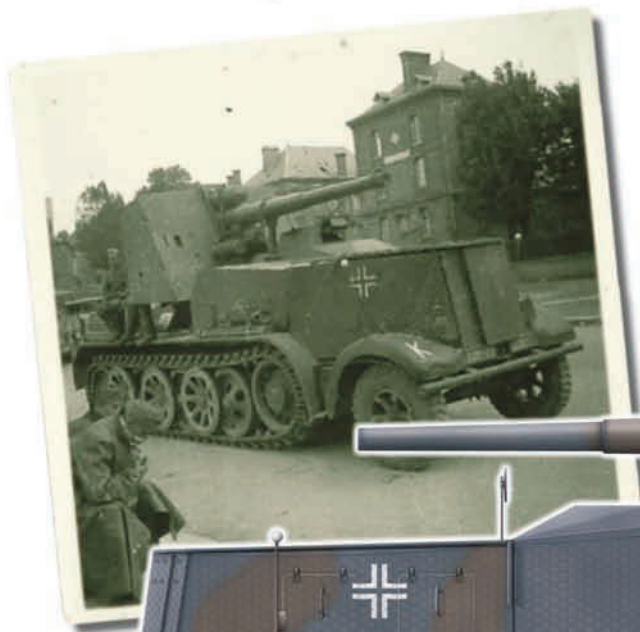
Befehlspanzer 38(t). 2.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 25, 7.Panzer-Division. From photographic evidence it would appear that these vehicles were allocated to the staff of each of the regiment's companies while the battalion and regimental headquarters were equipped with command tanks based on the Pzkw III.

Although evident on all the vehicles shown here, the large white rectangle painted onto the rear hull deck as an aerial recognition aid was falling out of favour by this time as experience in Poland had shown that they quickly became discoloured or covered with dust and dirt.

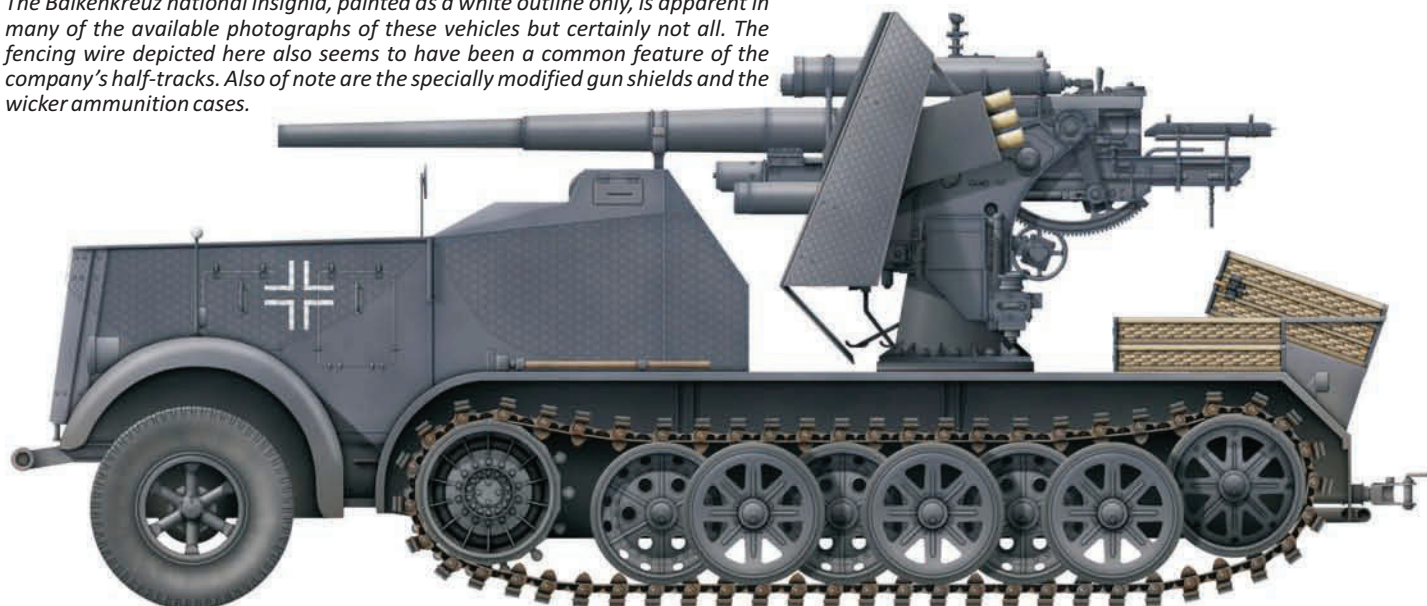




8,8cm Flak 18 L/56 (Sfl) auf Zugkraftwagen 12t Sdkfz 8 Bufla. 1.Kompanie, schwere Panzerjäger-Abteilung 8. Just ten of these vehicles had been manufactured by May 1940 and six served with this company during the campaign in the West, for the most part supporting 1.Panzer-Division. Despite the reputation that this gun would subsequently earn as an anti-tank weapon, these half-tracks were designed as bunker-busters - a task they performed with devastating effect on numerous occasions - hence the name Bufla, a contraction of Bunker Flak. A single vehicle was lost in France - probably destroyed by a Stuka - and the company, renamed Panzerjäger-Kompanie 601, had four of its six original half-tracks on hand in June 1942 while fighting in Russia. The two-colour camouflage scheme common at this time can be discerned in a number of photographs but may not have been applied to all the company's half-tracks. Our photograph at left shows the large white letter K painted on the right fender signifying Panzergruppe Kleist.



The Balkenkreuz national insignia, painted as a white outline only, is apparent in many of the available photographs of these vehicles but certainly not all. The fencing wire depicted here also seems to have been a common feature of the company's half-tracks. Also of note are the specially modified gun shields and the wicker ammunition cases.





Two Pzkw IV ausf D tanks belonging to 3.Kompanie, Panzer-Abteilung 66 which was attached to 7.Panzer-Division. The tank at right, numbered 321, is also shown and discussed in the illustration section on page 16.



At right: Two Sdkfz 10/4 half-tracks armed with the 2cm Flak 30 anti-aircraft gun. Production of these vehicles began in 1939 and by the end of the campaign in the west over 1,500 had been produced. They were used to equip the army's motorised Flak battalions that were raised beginning in October 1939. By May 1940 six of the planned twenty Heeres-Flakabwehr-Bataillonen had been formed although details of their deployment are not available. Below: An advance element of 2.Infanterie-Division identified by the unit insignia on the rear mudguard of the staff car.



Two photographs taken from the same sequence show tanks of Panzer-Regiment 8, 10. Panzer-Division passing through a French town. The Pzkw IV ausf D depicted here that leads the column has the white diagonal bar marking on the nearest fender that was used to identify tanks of this division. It is possible that the use of this marking was discontinued when XIX. Armee Korps became Panzergruppe Guderian. On the hull side, just behind the spare wheel, can be seen the first two digits of a 3. Kompanie number.

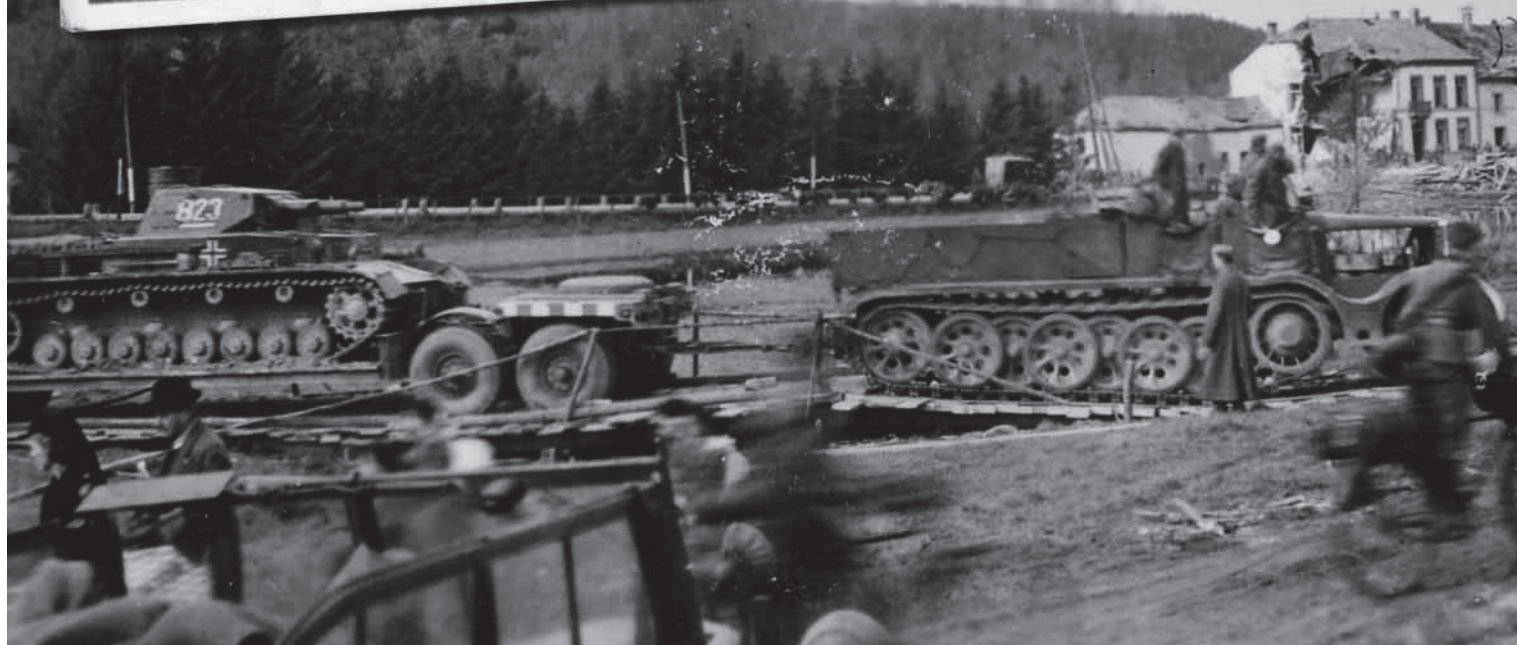


This Pzkw III ausf E carries no visible markings other than the 5. Kompanie number on the hull side just in front of the open vision port. The absence of the well known Bison symbol and the 3. Kompanie number carried by the Pzkw IV above confirms that these vehicles are from Panzer-Regiment 8 whose Wolfsangel insignia would have been carried on the turret rear. Further examples of this unit's system of markings are shown on page 11 of the illustration section.





Above and left: These two photographs of Pzkw 38(t) tanks of Panzer-Regiment 25, 7. Panzer-Division illustrate very well the typical appearance of the regiment's light tanks. Just visible on the vehicle shown above is a 2. Kompanie number applied in large red, outlined white numbers on the turret side. The Balkenkreuz national insignia in both cases has a black centre and thin, white arms. The tank depicted in the photograph at left is somewhat unusual in having no turret number but does carry the division's unit insignia at the turret front. In the original print it is possible to discern the two-colour camouflage of Dunkelbraun and Dunkelgrau on this vehicle. Below: A Pzkw IV ausf A of 8. Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 1, 1. Panzer-Division towed by an Sdkfz 9 half-track on an Sonderhanger 116 transporter. The underlined turret number was an identifying feature of the battalion.





This photograph shows three Pzkw II light tanks - one of which has lost a track - and a single Pzkw I vehicle of 7. Panzer-Division halted by a roadside. Of note is the metal plate attached to the rear hull of the nearest vehicle displaying the tank's number, 633. The last digit is just visible on the side of the turret and in the original print of this photograph the division's unit insignia can be discerned to the left of the Balkenkreuz.

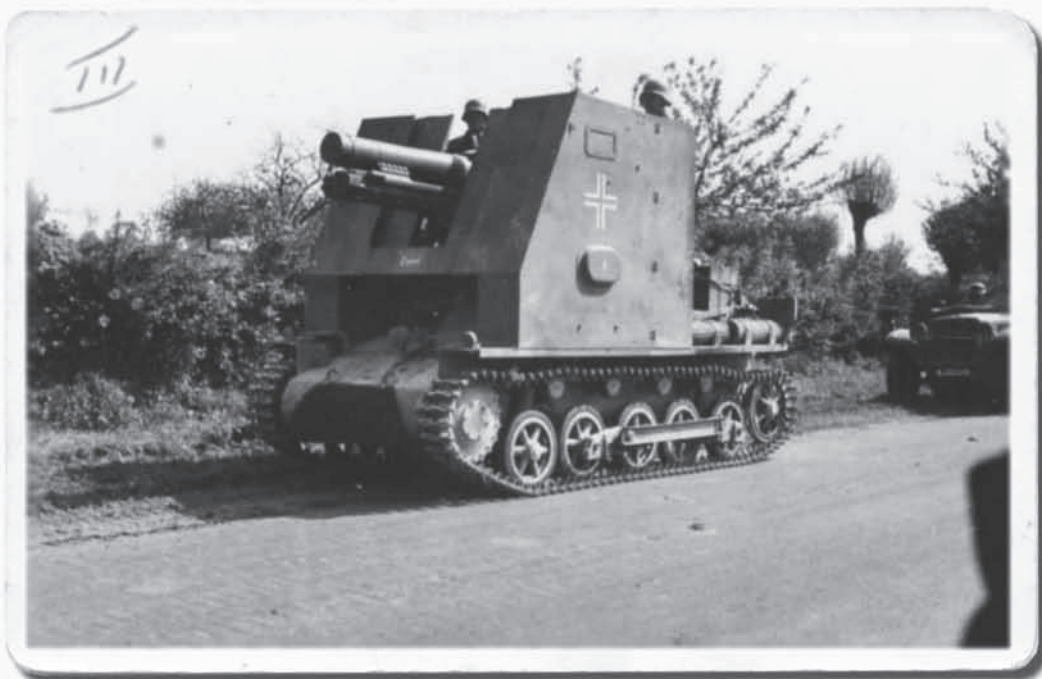


Two Pzkw III tanks - possibly ausf E models - photographed in a French town. Unfortunately there are no identifying markings visible on either of these vehicles although the lead tank carries what appears to be one of the brightly coloured aerial recognition panels that were introduced for this campaign.



SNAPSHOTS FROM THE FRONT

Unlike the servicemen of the various Allied armies, German soldiers were not merely permitted to take and retain photographs of their units in combat but were actively encouraged to do so. Indeed, for the greater part of the war, the Wehrmacht made available high quality cameras and film stock to its soldiers, sailors and airmen at greatly discounted prices. The photographs on this and the facing page - with the exception of the last image - were all made by ordinary soldiers on or near the frontline and as such offer a rare glimpse of the realities of the 1940 campaign. Above: A Pzkw II ausf C of Panzer-Regiment 8, 10. Panzer-Division. The regiment's Wolfsangel insignia is just visible on the turret rear as is the system of light coloured bars which probably indicate a company within the regiment's first or second battalions. These markings are discussed further in the illustration section.



The photographs at left and above show two of the self-propelled 150mm infantry guns mounted on Pzkw I chassis which took part in the 1940 battles. The experience of the Polish campaign had shown that although these guns were highly effective in reducing enemy strong points, they offered little or no protection to their crews who suffered accordingly. The solution was to mount the gun, with wheels and carriage intact, onto a mobile platform provided with an armoured superstructure, the result being correctly referred to as 15cm schwere-Infanterie-Geschütz 33 auf Panzerkampfwagen I. In all, thirty-six of these vehicles were on hand with six independent companies in May 1940. Numbered from 701 to 705 these companies were attached to Panzer divisions and their allocation is detailed in the table on page 4. Many, although not all, were named with the name usually being painted below the main gun, as in the photograph above, or on the superstructure side.

Above: A Panzerbefehlswagen III ausf E, numbered B01, from one of the battalion staffs of Panzer-Regiment 25, 7.Panzer-Division photographed at Les Petites Dalles, approximately 40 kilometres west of Dieppe on the Channel coast, in early June 1940. Although it seems that this tank has come to grief it is in fact racing for the honour of becoming the first tank of the division to reach the ocean. This charming town has changed little since 1940 and the house in the background, although renovated and bordered by newer dwellings, still stands today. At bottom: The later pattern, aluminium badge worn with the corded silver Panzer marksmanship lanyard introduced in 1936. The lanyard was worn with the badge at the right shoulder, suspended from the shoulder strap, with the other end attached to a button inside the tunic front at the chest. Although these lanyards were never intended to be worn in the field, at this early stage of the war such awards and insignia could still be seen at the front and are encountered in photographs.



At left: A Gepanzerte Zugkraftwagen Sdkfz 7, a specially modified version of the well known 8 ton half-track which was used to tow a variant of the 8,8cm Flak 18 intended as a bunker-buster and issued to three schwere-Panzer-Abwehr-Abteilungen numbered 525, 560 and 605. Each of these heavy battalions was made up of three companies and each company contained two Züge, or platoons, equipped with two 8,8cm guns each. In addition, each battalion controlled two platoons armed with the 3.7cm Pak anti-tank gun. These independent battalions were attached to II.Armeekorps, XI.Armeekorps and IV.Armeekorps respectively. Below: A Pzkw III ausf E of Panzer-Regiment 8, 10.Panzer-Division apparently bogged in soft sand near a riverbank. The regiment's distinctive Wolfsangel symbol is clearly visible on the rear hull below the commander's cupola although the coloured bars so frequently seen in other photographs of this regiment's tanks are absent.



OBERKOMMANDO DES HEERES (OKH)RESERVE

2.Armee.
General von Weichs
XVII.Armeekorps
XXXIX.Armeekorps (mot)
XXXXII.Armeekorps
Höheres Kommando z.b.V.XXXV

OKH Reserve mit-
Infanterie-Divisionen 10, 22, 44, 45, 46, 50, 57, 60, 72, 78, 81,
82, 83, 86, 88, 161, 162, 164, 167, 168, 169, 183, 197, 205, 212,
217, 221, 260, 290, 291, 292, 293, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299
Infanterie-Division-Dresden, Infanterie-Division-Ohrdruff
Infanterie-Division-Tübingen, 44-Totenkopf-Division

HEERESGRUPPE A General-Oberst von Rundstedt

Heeresgruppe A Reserve
XXXX.Armeekorps.6.Infanterie-Division,
9.Infanterie-Division, 33.Infanterie-Division

4.Armee.
General von Kluge
-Der Armee direkt
unterstellt
4.Infanterie-Division
87.Infanterie-Division
211.Infanterie-Division
263.Infanterie-Division
267.Infanterie-Division

12.Armee.
General-Oberst List
-Der Armee direkt
unterstellt
9.Infanterie-Division
27.Infanterie-Division

16.Armee.
General Busch
-Der Armee direkt
unterstellt
26.Infanterie-Division
52.Infanterie-Division
71.Infanterie-Division
73.Infanterie-Division

Panzergruppe von Kleist.
General von Kleist

XIV.Armeekorps (mot)
13.Infanterie-Division
(mot)
29.Infanterie-Division
(mot)

II.Armeekorps.
12.Infanterie-Division
32.Infanterie-Division

III.Armeekorps.
3.Infanterie-Division
23.Infanterie-Division

VII.Armeekorps.
36.Infanterie-Division
68.Infanterie-Division

XIX.Armeekorps (mot).
1.Panzer-Division
2.Panzer-Division
10.Panzer Division
Infanterie-Regiment
Grossdeutschland

V.Armeekorps.
251.Infanterie-Division

VI.Armeekorps.
16.Infanterie-Division
24.Infanterie-Division

XIII.Armeekorps.
15.Infanterie-Division
17.Infanterie-Division

XXXXI.Armeekorps (mot).
2.Infanterie-Division
(mot.)
6.Panzer-Division
8.Panzer Division

VIII.Armeekorps.
8.Infanterie-Division
28.Infanterie-Division

XVIII.Armeekorps.
5.Infanterie-Division
21.Infanterie-Division
25.Infanterie-Division
1.Gebirgs-Division

XXIII.Armeekorps.
34.Infanterie-Division
58.Infanterie-Division
76.Infanterie-Division

XV.Armeekorps (mot).
62.Infanterie-Division
6.Panzer Division
7.Panzer Division

HEERESGRUPPE B. General-Oberst von Bock

Heeresgruppe B Reserve
XXXX Armeekorps - 1.Infanterie-Division, 11.Infanterie-Division
223.Infanterie-Division

6.Armee.
General von Reichenau
der Armee direkt unterstellt
1.Infanterie-Division
11.Infanterie-Division
20.Infanterie-Division (mot)
61.Infanterie-Division
216.Infanterie-Division
223.Infanterie-Division
255.Infanterie-Division

18.Armee.
General von Kuchler
der Armee direkt unterstellt
1.Kavallerie-Division
208.Infanterie-Division
225.Infanterie-Division
9.Panzer-Division
44-Verfügungstruppe-Division

X Armeekorps.
227.Infanterie-Division
44-Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler

XXVI Armeekorps.
207.Infanterie-Division
254.Infanterie-Division
256.Infanterie-Division
44-Regiment Der Führer

XVI Armeekorps (mot).
3.Panzer-Division

IV Armeekorps.
18.Infanterie-Division
35.Infanterie-Division

IX Armeekorps.
19.Infanterie-Division
30.Infanterie-Division
56.Infanterie-Division

XI Armeekorps.
7.Infanterie-Division
14.Infanterie-Division
31.Infanterie-Division

XXVII Armeekorps.
253.Infanterie-Division
269.Infanterie-Division
4.Panzer-Division



At right: Largely regarded as the architect of Fall Gelb, Erich von Manstein was able to convince Hitler of the need for an armoured thrust through the Ardennes region over a private lunch.

HEERESGRUPPE C General Ritter von Leeb

1.Armee.
General von Witzleben
der Armee direkt unterstellt
94.Infanterie-Division
98.Infanterie-Division

XII Armeekorps
75.Infanterie-Division
95.Infanterie-Division

XXIV Armeekorps
252.Infanterie-Division
257.Infanterie-Division
262.Infanterie-Division
268.Infanterie-Division

XXX Armeekorps
79.Infanterie-Division
95.Infanterie-Division

Höheres Kommando z.b.V. XXXVII
215.Infanterie-Division
246.Infanterie-Division

7.Armee
XXV Armeekorps
555.Infanterie-Division
557.Infanterie-Division

Höheres Kommando z.b.V. XXXIII
554.Infanterie-Division
556.Infanterie-Division



Above: The German advance through Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France from Friday, 10 to Tuesday, 21 May 1940 when the first German units reached the Channel coast. Below: A 15cm schwere-Infanterie-Geschütz auf Panzerkampfwagen I ausf B self-propelled gun of schwere-Infanterie-Geschütz-Kompanie 705, attached to 7.Panzer-Division, passing through a devastated French town. Based on the chassis of the Pzkw I light tank and mounting a 150mm heavy infantry gun - complete with its wheels and carriage - thirty-six of these vehicles, organised into six independent companies, took part in the 1940 campaign. Note the mixture of field-grey and black tank uniforms, the white outlined Balkenkreuz and the company number marked on the rear hull beneath the exhaust.



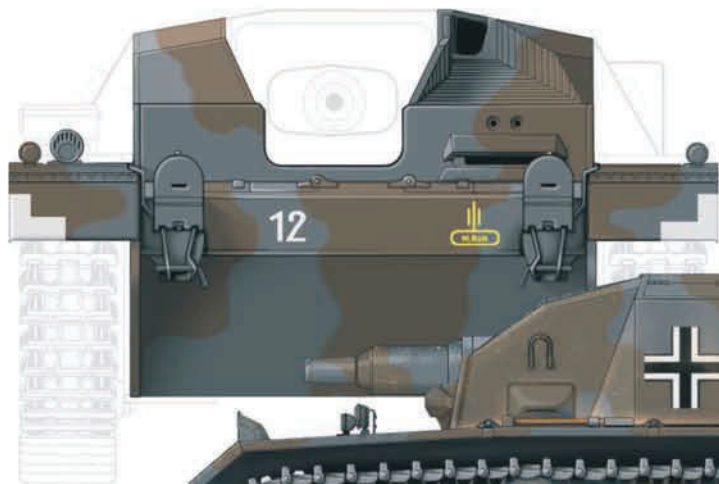
Below: A Pzkw II ausf C of Panzer-Regiment 25, 7. Panzer-Division. The large turret numbers of red outlined in white were an identifying feature of this unit. It is difficult to imagine how this vehicle came to be left in the position seen here.



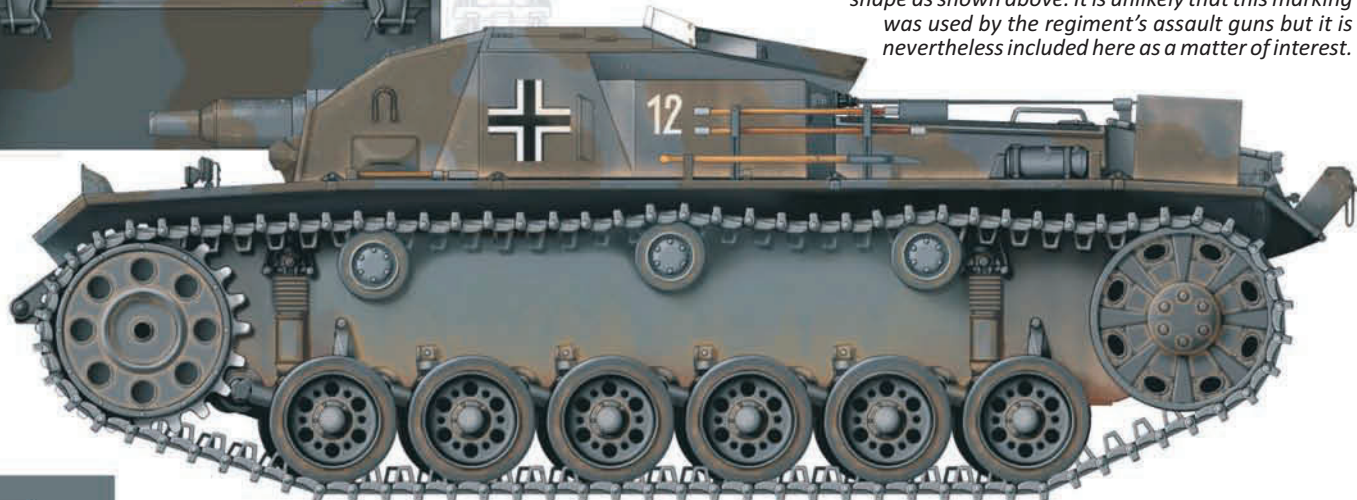
The image at left illustrates the typical appearance of armoured vehicle crews during the 1940 battles. The soft, woollen beret or Schutzmütze, which actually covered a protective leather helmet, was falling out of favour by 1940 and contemporary photographs show that it was often replaced by the field-grey Feldmütze and less commonly by the black Panzer version which had been introduced during the winter of 1939. The wearing of the Totenkopf badge on the field-grey uniform of the assault gun crews - who were controlled by the artillery inspectorate - was vehemently opposed by the tank troops and its use was officially banned in 1942.



A Pzkw IV ausf A photographed just prior to the campaign in the west. Although the older models of this medium tank were supposed to have been phased out of frontline use by May 1940 the notation on this photograph would suggest that there were at least some exceptions. Another early model of this vehicle is also shown in a photograph on page 26 in service with 1. Panzer-Division.

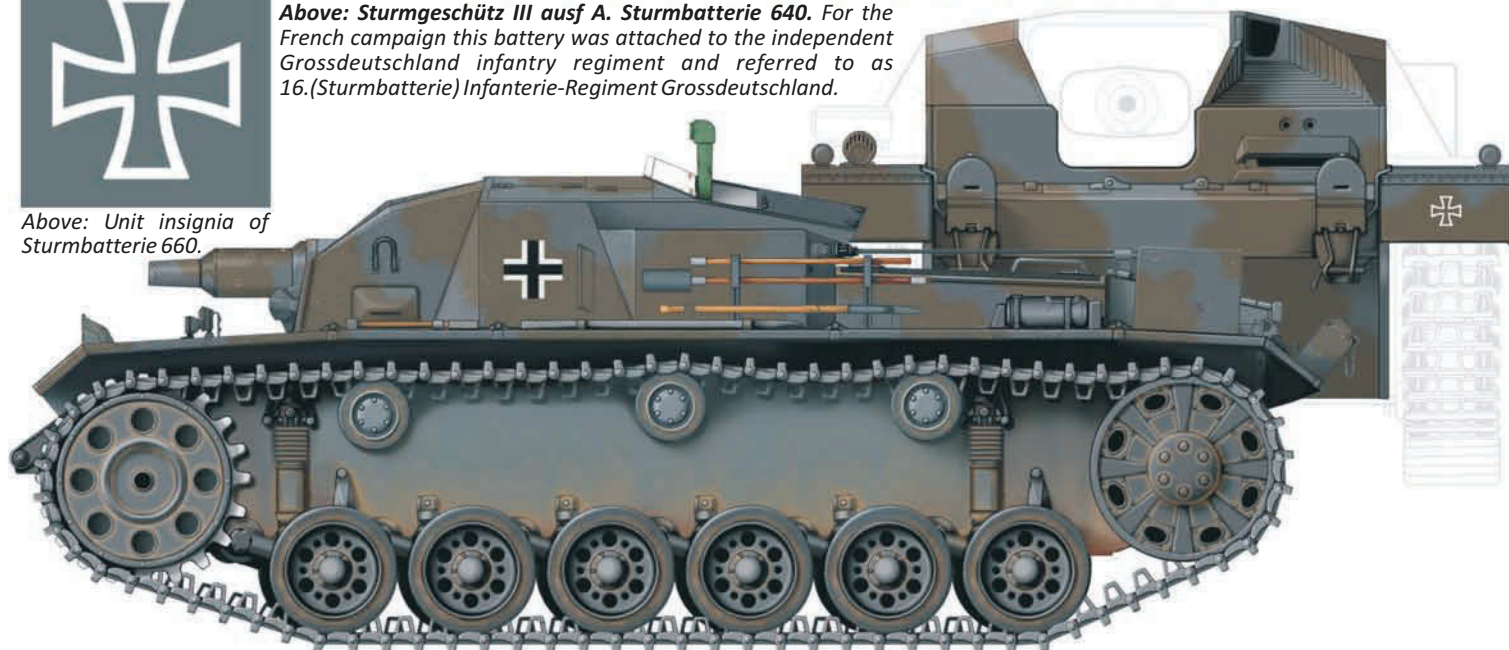


The vehicles of Infanterie-Regiment Grossdeutschland were marked with the familiar white helmet motif, the four battalions using a different geometrical shape as shown above. It is unlikely that this marking was used by the regiment's assault guns but it is nevertheless included here as a matter of interest.



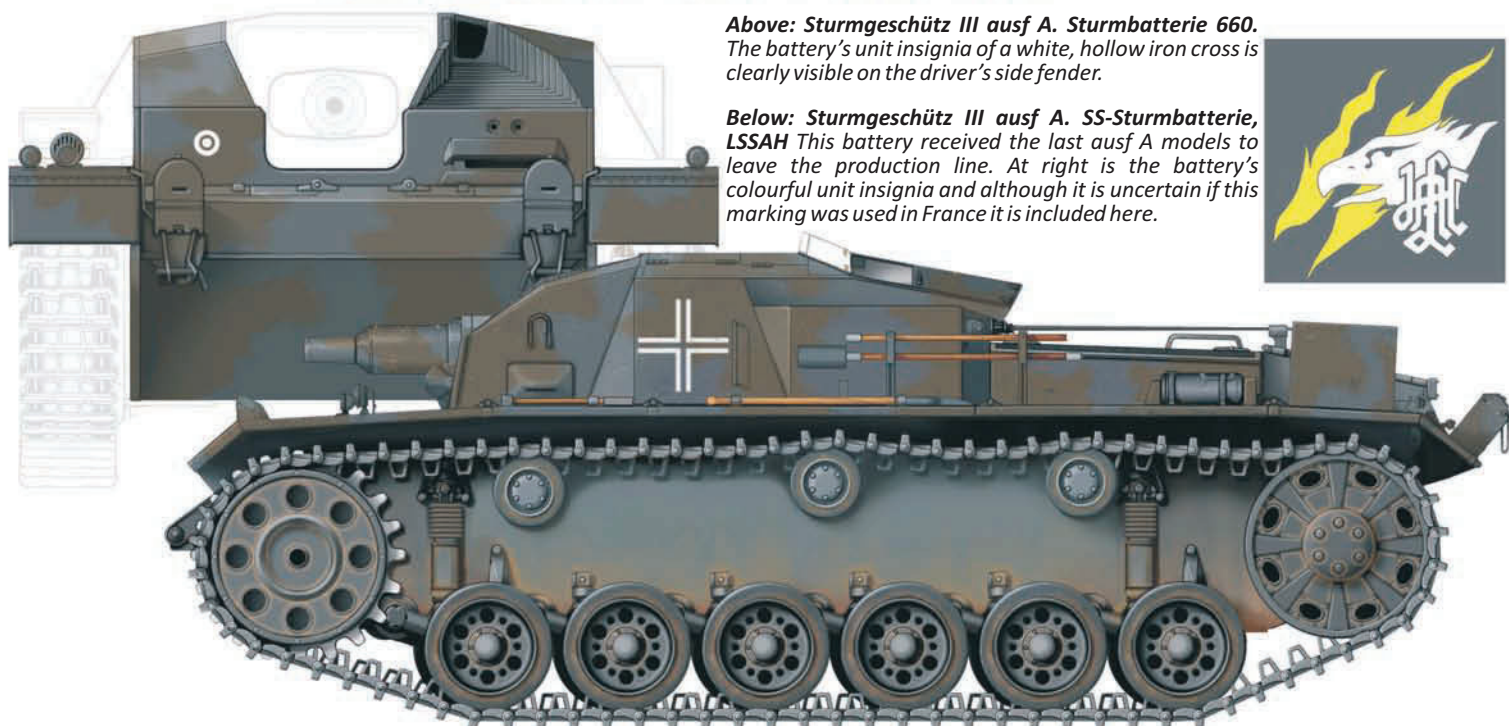
Above: Sturmgeschütz III ausf A. Sturmbatterie 640. For the French campaign this battery was attached to the independent Grossdeutschland infantry regiment and referred to as 16.(Sturmbatterie) Infanterie-Regiment Grossdeutschland.

Above: Unit insignia of Sturmbatterie 660.



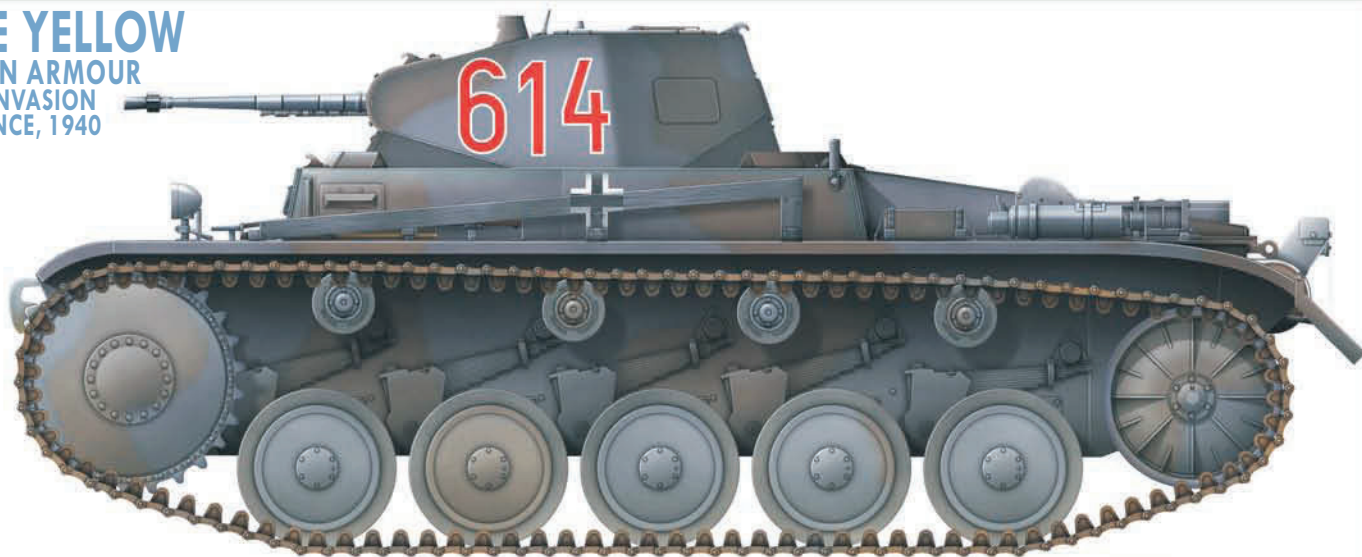
Above: Sturmgeschütz III ausf A. Sturmbatterie 660. The battery's unit insignia of a white, hollow iron cross is clearly visible on the driver's side fender.

Below: Sturmgeschütz III ausf A. SS-Sturmbatterie, LSSAH This battery received the last ausf A models to leave the production line. At right is the battery's colourful unit insignia and although it is uncertain if this marking was used in France it is included here.



CASE YELLOW

GERMAN ARMOUR IN THE INVASION OF FRANCE, 1940



Above right: A Pzkw II ausf C from 6.Kompanie, Panzer-Regiment 25 of 7.Panzer-Division. When the invasion began on 10 May 1940, the division had sixty-eight of these light tanks on hand.

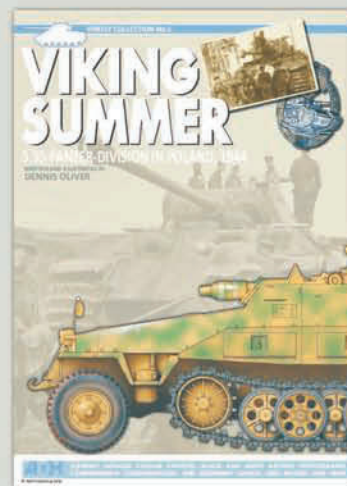
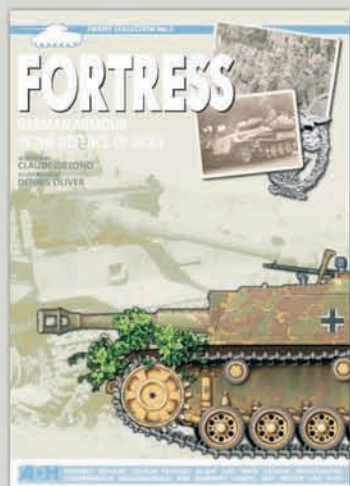
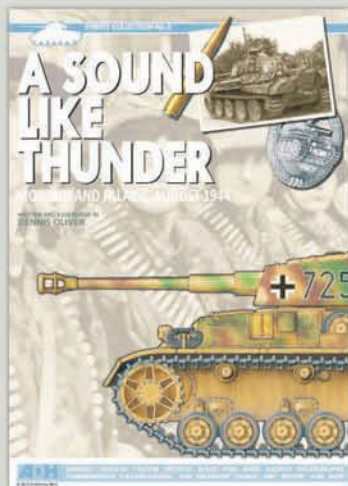


At right: A superbly detailed 1/35 scale model of a Panzerkampfwagen III ausf E - a type used extensively in the campaign of 1940. Our thanks go to Mr Freddie Leung, the CEO of Dragon Models Ltd, for his kind permission to reproduce this image.



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